THE SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For OCTOBER 1802.

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EDINBURGH:

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Communication of LÆLIUS, in anſwer to a Diſſenter, hath been received, and will be inſerted in our next.

WE received the paper of our correſpondent, uſing the ſignature H. S. concerning Intoxication. The deſign of it is laudable, but the execution is far from being ſo. We hope the author, upon a little conſideration, will ſee the propriety of our refuſing it a place.

THE Sketch on the Origin of Polytheiſm, will probably appear next number. The Ballad, communicated ſome time ago by the author of this paper, is under conſideration, and may perhaps be inſerted. We found a conſiderable difficulty, however, in deciphering the characters. We hope that our Correſpondents will perceive the propriety of paying ſome attention to diſtinctneſs of orthography, particularly in uncommon proper names, and ancient dialects; ſince, from the want of this attention, miſtakes are almoſt unavoidable.

WE are ſorry that we cannot gratify ſome of our Correſpondents, by inſerting the Copy of a Letter from an Angry Lover. It is ſuch as any illiterate perſon poſſeſſed of a moderate ſhare of common ſenſe might write to another, who he was afraid might ſupplant him in the object of his love.

We read over L.'s beautiful ſtanzas on the Birth-day of a Friend with much pleaſure. They poſſeſs a ſmoothneſs of verification, and a delicacy of ſentiment, which do honour to the feelings as well as to the taſte of the author.

THE Ode of B. S. hath been received, and will find a place.

WE have received ſeveral other poetical communications, which we will go as far in inſerting, as their merit will permit.

THE Verſes on Youthful Scenes have been unavoidably poſtponed.

WE have to requeſt that our Correſpondents, who have already favoured us with parts of Communications, will endeavour to ſend us the continuations as regularly as poſſible.

THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For OCTOBER 1802.

A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE AND OPINIONS

OF

ARCHIBALD EARL OF KELLIE.*

Laudis ea via eſt rectiſſima, quam majores noſtri tutam reliquerunt. CICERO.

"IT has been frequently objected to the relations of the lives of particular perſons, that as they are not diſtinguiſhed by any ſtriking or wonderful viciſſitudes, they are no proper objects of particular regard. But this notion ariſes from falſe meaſures of excellence and dignity, and muſt be eradicated, by conſidering that, in the eſteem of uncorrupted reaſon, what is of moſt uſe is of moſt value. There are many inviſible circumſtances which, whether we read as enquirers after natural or moral knowledge, whether we intend to enlarge our ſcience or increaſe our virtue, are more important than public occurrences. The buſineſs indeed of the biographer is to paſs ſlightly over thoſe performances and incidents which produce vulgar greatneſs; to lead the thoughts into domeſtic privacies; and to diſplay the minute details of daily life, where exterior appendages are caſt aſide, and men excel each other only by prudence and virtue."

SUCH were the ſentiments entertained of biography by a man † who excelled in that ſpecies of writing; and he whoſe judgment recogniſes their truth, will regret that the ſubject of this ſhort memoir had not employed a pen like his, which could diſtinguiſh the minuteſt ſhades of virtue and vice, and trace every action to its latent principle. The preſent writer, as he confeſſes himſelf unequal to ſuch a taſk, propoſes only to ſtate a few leading incidents, and from them to draw a general character.

ARCHIBALD ERSKINE, the ſeventh Earl of Kellie, was born at Kellie Caſtle in the county of Fife, on the 22d of April 1736. He was ſecond ſon of Alexander the fifth Earl, by Janet, ſecond daughter of Doctor

† Johnſon.

* This account was printed, and circulated among the Friends of the family of Kellie, in 1797. It is now, for the firſt time, *publiſhed* by permiſſion of the author, GEORGE GLEIG, LL. D. F. R. S. Edinburgh.

Pitcairn, phyſician in Edinburgh; a man whoſe fame has ſpread over every European country in which literature, ſcience, and genius, are valued.

It is part of the deſpicable cant of the preſent day to affect indifference as to the ſtation or the merits of a man's anceſtors; but as his Lordſhip had not adopted the philoſophy of France, he had no ſuch affectation. He thought that a noble deſcent might be one incitement to the performance of noble actions; and he certainly conſidered himſelf as bound to maintain the great political and religious principles of that anceſtor who had merited the titles which he poſſeſſed by inheritance.

To every one acquainted with Scotch hiſtory the riſe of the family of Kellie is known to have been moſt honourable. The founder of it was Sir Thomas Erſkine, ſon of Sir Alexander Erſkine of Gogar, brother to John Earl of Mar, Regent of Scotland, and under him principal tutor to James the Sixth. Upon the death of the Regent, Sir Alexander was appointed governor to the young king, and diſcharged that important truſt with great fidelity. He was afterwards made governor of Edinburgh caſtle and a privy counſellor; and amidſt the numerous cabals which diſtracted the kingdom during the minority of James, he appears to have adhered ſteadily to the cauſe of his royal maſter, not only againſt the ferocious faction of which the Earl of Morton was the head, but ſometimes alſo againſt the politics, whether timid or falſe, of his nephew the Earl of Mar.

The loyalty of Sir Alexander was inherited by his ſon; to whom, with Sir John Ramſay, the king was principally indebted for his reſcue from the Earl of Gowrie and his brother, who, on the 5th of Auguſt 1600, had contrived to get him completely in their power, and certainly intended either to carry him captive into England or to deprive him of life. For this meritorious ſervice theſe two gentlemen were ennobled; and Sir Thomas Erſkine having received a gift of part of Gowrie's eſtates, which were forfeited to the crown, was created Baron Dirleton, Viscount Fenton, and ſome years afterwards Earl of Kellie. Nor did the gratitude of James ſtop there. When he ſucceeded to the throne of England, he received into the privy council of that kingdom the man who, in his defence, had ſo nobly hazarded his life; appointed him captain of the yeoman of the guard, and groom of the ſtole; and conferred upon him the Order of the Garter.

To the principles which raiſed Sir Thomas Erſkine to the peerage, his deſcendants have faithfully adhered. During the civil war, which in the laſt century deluged the country with blood, the loyalty of the Earl of Kellie was ſo conſpicuous, that a patent was made out, creating him an Engliſh baron; but before it could paſs the great ſeal in thoſe times of confuſion, the King was murdered, and the conſtitution overthrown.

When it is conſidered who was the Sovereign who intended to beſtow upon the Earl this teſtimony of his regard, it cannot be doubted but that the diſappointment was felt as a very ſenſible loſs; but it was not the only loſs which his Lordſhip was doomed to ſuffer for maintaining the religious and political principles of his anceſtors. By the uſurping powers he was proſecuted as a *malignant*, and deprived of great part of his extenſive domains, which Charles II. wanted either the ability or the inclination to reſtore to the family; and from that period to the preſent, the opu-

lence

lence of the Earls of Kellie has borne no proportion to their rank in the ſtate.

THEIR innate honour, however, of which, as it was not derived from kings, uſurpers could not rob them, remained unſullied; and the ſubject of this memoir was educated in all the ancient principles which characteriſed the race from which he had ſprung. He was taught to conſider the Britiſh conſtitution as the moſt perfect ſyſtem of civil polity that the world has ever ſeen; the prerogatives of the crown as not leſs eſſential to it than the moſt boaſted privileges of parliament; and loyalty to the Sovereign as a virtue of high rank.

WITH a mind on which theſe ſentiments were deeply impreſſed, he entered at an early period of life into the army: but though he continued in it for twenty-ſix years, he never obtained a higher commiſſion than that of Major.

FOR ſuch very ſlow promotion it is not eaſy to account. By thoſe who ſerved with him in the only conſiderable action in which he was ever engaged, his behaviour is ſaid to have been that of a cool and intrepid ſoldier; by none who knew him will he be ſuppoſed to have been other than ſcrupulouſly attentive to his duty; and without valuing himſelf on that ſuperficial knowledge in tactics, which renders the converſation of ſome officers ſo diſguſting, he was certainly well acquainted with the common evolutions of the army, and had read more on the art of war than many men of meaner birth, who have, in a ſhorter period, riſen to the rank of General. His monarchical and high church notions, ſuppoſed perhaps to ſpring from the known attachment of his family to the houſe of *Stuart*, may have retarded his promotion, ſo long as to ſpeak contemptuouſly of that houſe was deemed the ſureſt teſt of loyalty to the reigning Sovereign; but to all who had the happineſs of Major Erſkine's acquaintance, it muſt indeed be matter of ſurpriſe, that, after theſe illiberal prejudices were baniſhed from the public mind, he was not rapidly raiſed to that rank to which by his long ſervice he was ſo well entitled.

ALTHOUGH no man could be more feelingly alive to this treatment than he was, it never leſſened his dutiful and affectionate attachment to his Sovereign, or tempted him for a moment to enliſt himſelf under the banners of any of thoſe factions which have diſturbed the government during the preſent reign. He had not in his youth learned, nor in his manhood could he be perſuaded by all the arguments of *patriotic* oratory, that "the power of the crown has increaſed, is increaſing, and ought to be diminiſhed;" but neglected as he was by the Court, he maintained through life, that, in a mixed government like ours, the conſtitutional prerogatives of the crown form the ſureſt bulwark to the liberties of the ſubject.

WHEN, by the death of his elder brother in 1781, he ſucceeded to the titles of his anceſtors, and to the wreck of their fortune, he very juſtly thought that it became his dignity to relinquiſh a profeſſion in which he had met with ſo little encouragement; and he ſoon afterwards diſpoſed of his commiſſion. It has been already obſerved, that for more than a century paſt the affluence of the Earls of Kellie has not been equal to their rank; and it muſt here be added, that the ſixth Earl found himſelf under the neceſſity of ſelling the eſtate which gave him his higheſt title, and which, during all the viciſſitudes of their fortune, had hitherto remained in the poſſeſſion of the family. To gratify ſome of his relations, he reſerved indeed the Caſtle and a few incloſed fields about it;

but theſe were comparatively of ſo little importance, that none but a man nobly attached to the inheritance of his fathers would have thought of retiring from the world, in the prime of life, to employ his time and his taſte in improving their beauty and increaſing their value. Such a man was the ſubject of this memoir.

Archibald Earl of Kellie, as ſoon as he had quitted the army, reſided for the greater part of every year at the Caſtle; which, without abſurdly attempting to modernize its gothic grandeur, or to change the form of its ancient decorations, he converted into an elegant and commodious houſe, every way ſuitable to the dignity of its owner. Nor was his taſte leſs ſucceſsfully employed in embelliſhing his ſmall domain than in adorning his manſion. At his acceſſion, though agricultural improvements had for ſome time been making a rapid progreſs through Scotland, the lands of Kellie exhibited to the eye of the ſpectator the ſame unadorned proſpect, varied only by paſturage and cornfields, which they muſt have exhibited half a century before; but, in the compaſs of a very few years they were, under his management, made to aſſume the appearance of a garden.

While this Noble Lord was thus embelliſhing what remained of his paternal eſtate at an expence which might have been ſuppoſed to exhauſt almoſt the whole of his income, he was enabled by the moſt judicious œconomy to ſupport the ancient hoſpitality of his houſe. Delicate, perhaps, faſtidious, in the choice of his companions, he was not indeed incumbered by crouds of viſitors; but thoſe, who were admitted to his table, experienced at Kellie Caſtle that kind of entertainment, which cultivated minds wiſh to receive from men of rank: they were ſure to enjoy, if they were capable of ſuch enjoyment, "the feaſt of reaſon and the flow of ſoul."

The Earl of Kellie's time, however, was not to be wholly devoted to rural amuſements. Being choſen one of the ſixteen repreſentatives of the Scotch peerage in the parliament which met at Weſtminſter on the 25th of November 1790, he had an opportunity of diſplaying the worth of his character in a ſtation more important than he had ever before filled; and he did not diſappoint the expectations of his friends. He was not indeed fitted, either by nature or by early habits, to make a figure as an orator; nor would his good ſenſe permit him to attempt what he was conſcious he could not properly perform, and what, when performed in the moſt brilliant manner, he conſidered, perhaps juſtly, as of no great importance: but he paid unwearied attention to the buſineſs which came before the houſe; and ſuch obſervations as he made on the different queſtions on which he was to vote, were always to the purpoſe. As a legiſlator he acted upon the ſame monarchical and high-church principles which he had uniformly profeſſed as a private man; and of courſe he ſupported the meaſures of the crown againſt the ſyſtematical oppoſition of what he deemed a faction.

Attached however as he was to the monarchical branch of the conſtitution, he was by no means regardleſs of the rights of the ſubject. Of his attention to them he gave ſome very convincing proofs by the active part which he took in procuring liberty of conſcience to two bodies of men, who, even in this free country, and towards the end of the eighteenth century, were liable to be legally perſecuted for worſhipping God after the manner of their fathers.

From the era of the Revolution, when

when Epiſcopacy ceaſed to be in Scotland the form of church-government ſupported by the ſtate, penal laws had at different times been enacted, to prevent the bad conſequences of the attachment, whether real or ſuppoſed, of the Scotch Epiſcopalians to the abdicated family of Stuart; and two of theſe laws, paſſed in 1746 and 1748, were of ſuch a nature, that, even in thoſe days of party-prejudice and political rancour, they were deemed injudiciouſly ſevere by enlightened men of all deſcriptions. The avowed object of them was to eradicate diſſaffection to the government; but their obvious tendency was to force from the communion of the Epiſcopal church every man of rank and opulence; though it might have been clearly foreſeen, that of theſe very few would, by compulſion, be made to unite themſelves with the eſtabliſhment.

"To be of no church is dangerous. Religion, of which the rewards are diſtant, and which is animated only by faith and hope, will glide by degrees out of the mind, unleſs it be invigorated and reimpreſſed by external ordinances, by ſtated calls to worſhip, and by the ſalutary influence of example." The truth of this obſervation was fully verified in the Scotch Epiſcopalians. Excluded from their own chapels, and prevented by pride perhaps, as well as by principle, from frequenting the churches to which the hand of power ſeemed inclined to drive them, the religious impreſſions of their youth gradually vaniſhed from their minds; and they were expoſed, unarmed, to the ſhafts of infidelity. The Earl of Kellie, whoſe principles were untainted by the faſhionable philoſophy of the times, being himſelf a member of the Scotch Epiſcopal church, had long regretted the the reſtraints which had been laid upon her worſhip; and to his unwearied exertions it was chiefly owing that in 1792 thoſe reſtraints were removed by an Act of Parliament.

In ſerving the cauſe of Epiſcopacy in Scotland his Lordſhip was indeed ſerving himſelf; but he was ſoon furniſhed with an opportunity of ſhowing that he could act with equal energy from motives leſs intereſted.

The penal laws which oppreſſed the Scotch Catholics, as they were a ſtill greater diſgrace to the Statute-book than thoſe which had ſo lately been in force againſt the Proteſtant Epiſcopalians, every man of a liberal mind had long wiſhed to ſee repealed; but when it was propoſed in 1778 to repeal ſome of the ſevereſt of them, ſuch commotions were excited in Scotland as frightened thoſe who then guided the helm of the ſtate from carrying into effect their humane intention. Mens minds, however, became gradually more enlightened; and when the meaſure was reſumed by the preſent adminiſtration, ſuch relief was granted to the Catholics in Scotland as, whether it entirely ſatisfied them or not, was highly grateful to the head of their church. This appears from different medals, letters, and other teſtimonies of gratitude which, for his active endeavours to procure their emancipation, the Earl of Kellie had the honour to receive, as well from the Sovereign Pontiff as from other Italian eccleſiaſtics of very high rank.

To a mind like his, ſuch approbation of his conduct would undoubtedly be pleaſing; but his greateſt pleaſure muſt have ſprung from the applauding whiſpers of his own conſcience. Humane by nature, he abhorred cruelty under every form; juſt by principle, he could not but ſee that no human legiſlature has a right to preſcribe to individuals the articles of their religious creed, or the rites and ceremonies with which they ſhall worſhip their Maker;

and deeply impreſſed with a ſenſe of the higheſt honour, he muſt have thought with indignation of a law which expoſed the liberty and property of the moſt harmleſs member of the church of Rome to the mean malevolence of every vile informer. It can therefore excite no wonder that his Lordſhip valued himſelf more for his exertions in behalf of the Scotch Epiſcopalians and Scotch Catholics than for any other action which he had ever performed.

THIS valuable life was now drawing towards a concluſion. Temperance had hitherto exempted him from almoſt every diſeaſe; but in July 1795 he exhibited ſome alarming ſymptoms. Theſe, however, yielded to the powers of medicine; and his friends flattered themſelves with the hopes of long enjoying the pleaſure of his Lordſhip's ſociety; but their hopes were quickly blaſted. The former ſymptoms ſoon returned with ſuch aggravation as too ſurely evinced that his ſufferings were occaſioned by *hydrothorax*; a diſeaſe againſt which the ſkill of the phyſician is commonly exerted in vain. It was ſo exerted in the caſe of his Lordſhip, who, after lingering long under this ſevere diſtreſs, on the 8th of May 1797 reſigned his ſoul into the hands of his Creator with the calm fortitude of a pious Chriſtian.

OF his general character the reader muſt already have formed ſome opinion. Inflexible integrity, a high ſenſe of honour, and an unſhaken belief in the Chriſtian religion, directed every important tranſaction of his life; and although in the large circle of his acquaintance there were doubtleſs many who did not regard him with the fondneſs of friendſhip, it is not perhaps too much to ſay, that Archibald Earl of Kellie had not a ſingle enemy.

WITHOUT pretending to great erudition himſelf, he loved learning and learned men; but he abhorred the character of a *modern* philoſopher. Such philoſophers indeed as NEWTON, and BOYLE, and BERKELEY, and JOHNSON, he revered as the ornaments of human nature; but he could not ſpeak without indignation of thoſe who are daily enlightening the world with their *diſcoveries* in politics, in morals, and in religion. "I have heard (ſaid he when on his death-bed) many infidel-arguments in converſation, and I have read ſome books expreſsly written againſt the authenticity and inſpiration of the ſacred ſcriptures; but I thank God, that the moſt impartial inquiry which I have been able to make into the truth of religion, has confirmed my faith; for without that faith, how comfortleſs ſhould I now be!" It was indeed that faith which, under very ſevere ſufferings, ſo completely ſupported him, that, during the long courſe of nine months, he never uttered a complaint which would have diſgraced a primitive martyr.

HIS Lordſhip's monarchical principles have been already mentioned, as well as the attachment of his family to the houſe of Stuart. He was himſelf attached to that houſe, but not to ſuch a degree as to give reaſon to call in queſtion his allegiance to the family on the throne. His was the attachment of gratitude and not the weak prejudice of Jacobitiſm; of which the following anecdote may be given as an inſtance. In 1788 he received from a club or ſociety in Edinburgh a letter, requeſting him to contribute to the expence of a monument to be erected to the honour of King William, and to perpetuate the memory of what he did, at the Revolution, for the religion and liberty of theſe nations. His Lordſhip having read the letter, threw it from him with great indignation. "It would appear (ſaid he to the writer of this memoir) that theſe patriotic gentlemen

do

do not conſider gratitude as a virtue, or they could not have thought of making ſuch a requeſt to me. The Revolution has indeed been productive of many happy conſequences, and on account of them I rejoice that it took place; but no good man can approve the motives which influenced the conduct of King William on that occaſion; and ſurely no man of the name of ERSKINE, whatever may be his opinion of the laſt James, will contribute any thing to ſhow thus publicly that he rejoices in the downfall of an ancient houſe, by which his own family was raiſed above the common rank of their fellow-citizens."

His Lordſhip's private virtues were of the moſt amiable kind. He was a dutiful ſon, an affectionate brother, a ſteady friend, an obliging neighbour, and to his ſervants a kind and indulgent maſter. He poſſeſſed a quick diſcernment of whatever was wrong or ridiculous: and in ſmall parties, conſiſting of men whoſe principles he approved, he was not unwilling to expoſe it; for there his converſation was eaſy, and his humour was exquiſite, whilſt in mixed companies, and even before a ſingle ſtranger, he generally preſerved a dignified ſilence. By thoſe to whom he was not intimately known, this ſilence was thought to proceed from the pride of birth; but it was in truth the offſpring of taſte and diffidence—of taſte which viewed an ideal perfection to which diffidence would hardly permit him to aſpire. That he had a due value for noble birth, is indeed known to all who knew him; but, as he valued it only for the reaſon which has been already mentioned, he was ſo far from thinking that it could atone for the want of perſonal worth, that no man more heartily aſſented to the maxim of the Grecian chief,

Nam genus et proavos et quæ non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra voco.

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

SIR,

IT is well known, that with literary perſons, any thing relative to thoſe who have excited the public attention, is very deſireable: and this is particularly the caſe, when theſe objects of our curioſity have been authors, celebrated on any account whatever. In this view, a man's private correſpondence with a friend, muſt be admitted to be the ſureſt avenue to the heart; and, therefore, to the enquirer, muſt prove the moſt intereſting.—Theſe being my own ſentiments, you may naturally conclude, that I ſuppoſe myſelf making your readers a very acceptable preſent, by communicating to them, through the medium of your much admired miſcellany, ſeveral letters, in ſucceſſion, of David Hume, Eſq to Dr John Clephane, phyſician in London. The *autographs*, from which theſe were tranſcribed, are in the poſſeſſion of the Doctor's accompliſhed niece, Mrs R—— of K——k. The orthography of the originals is obſerved.

I am,
SIR,
Yours, &c.
J. C.

Edinburgh, Sept. 19. 1802.

MR

Mr Hume, to Dr Clephane, Physician in London.

Dear Doctor,

I know not, if you remember the giant in Rabelais, who swallow'd, every morning, a wind-mill to breakfast; and, at last, was choak'd upon a pound of melted butter, hot from an oven. I am going to compare myself to that giant. I think nothing of dispatching a quarto in fifteen or eighteen months; but am not able to compose a letter, once in two years; and am very industrious to keep up a correspondence with posterity, whom I know nothing about, and who, probably, will concern themselves very little about me, while I allow myself to be forgot by my friends, whom I value and regard. However, it is some satisfaction, that I can give you an account of my silence, with which, I own, I reproach myself. I have now brought down my history to the death of Charles the First; and here I intend to pause for some time: to read, and think, and correct; to look forward and backward; and to adopt the most reasonable sentiments on all subjects. I am sensible, that the history of the two first Stuarts will be most agreeable to the Tories; that of the two last, to the Whigs. But we must endeavour to be above any regard either to Whigs or Tories.

Having thus satisfied your curiosity; for I will take it for granted that your curiosity extends towards me: I must now gratify my own. I was very anxious to hear that you had been molested with some disorders this summer. I was told that you expected they would settle into a fit of the gout. It is lucky when that disorder overtakes a man in his chariot; we foot-walkers make but an aukward figure with it. I hope no body has the impertinence to say to you, *Physician, cure thyself.* All the world allows that privilege to the gout, that it is not to be cur'd. It is itself a physician; and, of course, sometimes cures, and sometimes kills. I fancy one fit of the gout, would much increase your stock of interjections, and render that part of speech, which, in common grammars, is usually the most barren, with you more copious than either nouns or verbs.

I must tell you good news of our friend Sir Harry. I am informed that his talent for eloquence will not rust for want of employment: he bids fair for another seat of the house; and what is the charming part of the story, it is General Anstruther's seat which he is to obtain. He has made an attack upon the General's burroughs, and, by the assistance of his uncle's interest and purse, is likely to prevail. Is not this delicious revenge? It brings to my mind the story of the Italian, who, reading that passage of Scripture, *Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord,* burst forth; *Ay, to be sure: it is too sweet for any mortal.* I own I envy Sir Harry: I can never hope to hate any body so perfectly as he does that renown'd commander. And no victory, triumph, vengeance, success, can be more compleat. Are not you pleas'd too? Pray anatomize your own mind, and tell me how many grains of your satisfaction is owing to malice, and how many ounces to friendship.

I leave the rest of this paper to be filled up by Edmonstone.

I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Edinburgh, Oct. 28. 1753. David Hume.

P. S. After keeping this by me eight days, I have never been able

able to meet with Edmonſtone. I muſt therefore ſend off my own part of a letter, which we projected in common. I ſhall only tell you, that I have ſince ſeen Mr Oſwald, who aſſures me that Anſtruther's defeat is infallible.

For the Scots Magazine.

ON PRECISION IN WRITING.

Eſt brevitate opus, ut currat ſententia, neu ſe
Impediat verbis, laſſas onerantibus aures.

Tranſlation.

Conciſe your diction, let your ſenſe be clear,
Nor, with a weight of words, fatigue the ear.

SOME writers employ too many words to expreſs their ideas. "Senſible of not having caught the preciſe expreſſion, they help it out, as they can, by this and the other word, which may, as they ſuppoſe, ſupply the defect, and bring you ſomewhat nearer to their idea. They are always going about it, and about it, but never juſt hit the thing." They do not indeed conceive their own meaning very preciſely themſelves, hence they cannot communicate it with much preciſion to others.

I SHALL point out a few ſentences which ſhow, in a ſtriking light, the impropriety of uſing too many words. By omitting a fourth, a third, a half, nay even two-thirds, or perhaps three-fourths of the words, the following ſentences might be greatly improved, and the ſenſe not diminiſhed.

"FROM the title *which I have given to* my lucubrations, *it is poſſible* the *good-natured* public may *be diſpoſed to* give me more credit for ſincerity, than for prudence, for candour, than for the power of *either* amuſing or inſtructing them."

THE ſame, with one fourth of the words omitted:

FROM the title of my lucubrations, perhaps, the public may give me more credit for ſincerity, than for prudence, for candour, than for the power of amuſing or inſtructing.

2. "To propoſe *my looſe* reveries with that dogmatical air, which, *in this enlightened age*, paſſes ſo generally for *the indication of* truth, were extremely preſumptuous, in a *profeſſed* dreamer, *like myſelf, if the practice* were not ſanctioned by cuſtom and authority."

THE ſame, with one third of the words omitted:

To propoſe reveries with that dogmatical air which paſſes ſo generally for truth, were extremely preſumptuous in a dreamer, were it not ſanctioned by cuſtom and authority.

3. "IF my readers *happen to* be as *much* ſatisfied with my dreams as I *myſelf generally* am, I *may ſafely ſay that I* ſhall continue to dream, *in future*, with increaſed pleaſure, *and ſatisfaction.*"

THE

THE ſame, with one half of the words omitted:

IF my readers be as ſatisfied with my dreams as I am, I ſhall continue to dream with increaſed pleaſure.

4. THE *only* theory of the earth, *conſtructed upon the true principles of* philoſophical *inveſtigation*, is that of Dr Hutton; *though it muſt be confeſſed, that even he has not always ſtrictly adhered to them.*

THE ſame, with two thirds of the words omitted.

THE moſt philoſophical theory of the earth is that of Dr Hutton.

WRITERS ſhould always remember, "obſtat quicquid non adjuvat." —I may, perhaps, trouble you with ſomething more on this ſubject, ſhould this meet with a favourable reception.

Paiſley, March 26. 1802. PRECISIO.

To the Publiſhers of the Scots Magazine.

REMARKS ON THE INJURY DONE BY SQUIRRELS TO TREES.

SIR,

THE following letter which I lately received from a Scots gentleman reſident in England, concerning the deſtruction of young plantations in that country by ſquirrels, which, in a poſtſcript, he is deſirous ſhould be exhibited in your Magazine, as a caution to his countrymen againſt propagating theſe animals, you will be ſo obliging as inſert in your next Number, with thoſe few remarks from me on the ſubject, which his letter has given riſe to.

London, Sept. 17. 1802.

"I HAVE juſt returned from Devonſhire. During my ſtay in the northern part of that county, I was made acquainted with ſome prodigious ſcenes of deſtruction committed by ſquirrels upon the young plantations there. Though I had always known that they hurt young trees, I had no idea they ever produced ſuch extenſive miſchief. The larch particularly ſuffers."

THIS lively little quadruped was not known in the Lothians of Scotland till within theſe thirty years, when it is ſaid to have been introduced by the benevolent Ducheſs of Buccleugh, as an ornament to the woods of Dalkeith, from whence it has ſpread its ſpecies over moſt of the foreſts in Mid and Eaſt Lothian.

THE ſquirrel feeds on nuts, fruits and corn, of which it lays up great ſtores for winter proviſion. But, in ſummer, it generally lives on the tender ſhoots of trees, particularly of the larch. Hence it becomes ſo deſtructive to young plantations.

SQUIRRELS of almoſt every ſpecies, where they become numerous, are very deſtructive to fields of corn, of all kinds, as well when green as when ripe. In North America, ſome years ago, the crops of grain were ſo devoured by theſe animals, that the States found it neceſſary to offer a reward of *three pence* per head for every one that was killed. How numerous they were, may be judged of from this, that in one year, Penſylvania alone, paid in rewards on this account, eight thouſand pounds currency.

THESE obſervations are deſigned to put gentlemen on their guard, and to ſhew, not only to the planters of trees, but alſo to the farmers, and, of courſe, to the community at large, the neceſſity of deſtroying, inſtead of foſtering, ſquirrels.

Edinburgh, Oct. 1. 1802. S.

STRICTURES ON MR LAING'S DISSERTATION ON THE POEMS OF OSSIAN.

(Continued from p. 738.)

Manuscripts.

He says (p. 391) "Let a single *book of Fingal* in MS., such as translated by Macpherson, of an older date than the present century, be produced and lodged in a public library, and there is an *end* of the question." So it would seem that he deems the forgery to be only of Fingal. That one single book in old MS., if lodged in a public library, would satisfy him though problematical, may be true; but does he think that any person, possessed of such, would merely to please a querulous individual, ever think of doing so?—I would not. Mr Laing and the public are already possessed of 174 quarto pages of original Gaelic poems of Ossian, &c. edited by Dr Smith; equal, if not superior, in merit to those translated by Macpherson. Their authenticity stands uncontroverted, and the perusal of them must lead every sensible person, unless he sees better reasons than any offered by Laing, to believe, that Macpherson also translated from originals. Had Mr Laing, previous to writing his detections, industriously gone to the Highlands, and applied to Dr Smith, and the persons mentioned by him; or gone the length of Glasgow to Professor M'Leod, who compared two whole books of Fingal with the originals; and after procuring every possible information, had favoured the world with the result, whether for or against, every lover of truth would have acknowledged themselves indebted to him. But what does he do?—instead of putting himself to any trouble to get the truth, he barely copies the falsities and idle whims of a Pinkerton, and with the peevish ill nature of a *Conanduine*,* opposes Dr Blair and Dr Smith, and the positive evidence of the numerous and respectable gentlemen and clergymen referred to by them, substituting in its room a long string of negatives, the natural result of ignorance and want of information.

He says (p. 390) with Dr Johnson, that no Erse manuscripts exist above a century old; yet although Dr Smith had mentioned one some centuries older in the hands of Captain M'Laughlan of the 55th Regiment, he, without making the smallest inquiry as to the truth of the of the fact, impudently adduces his own simple negative in opposition; thus the old priest was too ignorant and positive, to make any inquiry whether *Sumpsimus* was the proper word, so pertinaciously continued his *mumpsimus*. Lhuyd mentions an old manuscript of Ninianus de Ponderibus et mensuris, which though not so old as St Ninian, he takes, from the resemblance of the hand to the Scotish, or Irish to have been written by a Cambrian Briton. He next notices the Cambridge *Juvencus*, a manuscript of poems † which he says "is undoubtedly either a Cambrian or Pictish manuscript, for the hand is perfectly Scottish; and I am well assured, no Briton, but either a Cambrian or a Pict would ever have rendered the word *Canis* as we there find it, *Ceinthiath*, which is at this day, with a small

* Vide Dr Smith's *Manes* note p. 161.

† In p. 232. he supposes *Juvencus* to be "one of our oldest British MSS."

variation of orthography, *Cinliath* or Caledonian or Albanian Britiſh, and from thence Iriſh. Any other Briton would have written *Penluit*, or ſomething like it," and he thinks it came from the north with a colony of Britons in 883. From what he ſays, it is clear he had ſeen ſome old Scottiſh manuſcripts in his time; and that he alſo heard old poems repeated in the Highlands, is evident from his obſervations on the oldeſt ſort of verſe called *Englyn milur* in J. Dav. Rhys's grammar, ſimilar, I think, to what is uſed by Oſſian. He ſays (p. 250.) "In regard I have, though but rarely, *heard* the ſame in the *ſhire of Argyle*, and alſo in Cornwall, I am apt to conclude it one of the moſt ancient, if not the very oldeſt ſort of verſe we ever had; and that it was in this ſort of metre the Druids taught their diſciples. That this is ancient enough to have been the verſe uſed by the Druids, is manifeſt from there being ſome *traditional remains* of it at this day in Wales, Cornwall, and *Scotland*, though it be immemorial when any ſuch were *laſt made*."

As to Laing's obſervation (391) on Macpherſon of Strathmaſhiæ, whoſe poetry he *preſumes* is, in other words, intermixed with his kinſman's, &c. it is below notice; and the reader would laugh at me for being at any trouble with *preſumptions*, however uncandid and rude.

(392) As to the *Red Book of Clanronald's bard*, that was recovered from Macpherſon, and which is in Mr Laing's hands, and contains the exploits of the Macdonalds under Montroſe, and ſome ſhort ſongs of the preſent century by M'Vurrick; I know not what to make of it, it is ſo Proteous like! In a note, it is called the Leabhar dearg, *the Red Book of Clanronald* (not of his bard,) and which is ſaid to be "the only manuſcript ſpecified in Blair's appendix, as communicated to Macpherſon.". In the very quotation that follows, we find that the Leabhar dearg, or book of Clanronald, *containing many of Oſſian's poems*, could not be given to Macpherſon, as it had been carried to Ireland; and that it was a different manuſcript that was given to Macpherſon, viz. one gifted by Neil Macmurrick, Clanronald's bard, "containing ſome of Oſſian's poems now tranſlated and publiſhed."—Next he tells us, that the book of Clanronald which went to Ireland, inſtead of Oſſian's poems, contained the hiſtory of Columba, as appears he ſays from "Martin, who enumerates the manuſcripts found in South Uiſt," &c. and that the life of Columba was in poſſeſſion of M'Donald of Benbecula *afterwards* chief of Clanronald—"That the family knew of no other than Macvuirick's, whoſe ſon is ſtill alive to atteſt the fact." Here we muſt believe that Martin had ſeen every individual MS in the Weſtern iſles or Highlands, and that it was totally impoſſible for Clanronald to poſſeſs any other MS than the one belonging to Benbecula in the end of the 17th century; and that M'Vurick's ſon could anſwer for the *whole* of Clanronald's family, that *not one of them* knew of any other than the MS of his fathers!—He next ſays, "Smith and M'Nicol *knew of no other MS* when they appealed with *ſuch effrontery* to the Red book of M'Vurick, and the Red rhymer, a folio MS which M'Pherſon got from M'Donald of *Glenalladale* or *Kyles*; and *thoſe* apparently are the two genealogies which Martin quotes. Thus far the genealogiſt Macvurick and Hugh Macdonald in their MS." Now Dr Smith, at the place quoted by Laing, ſays nothing of the *Red book of Macvurick*, nor of the Red rhymer, but mentions a valuable MS of Oſſian, given to Macpherſon by Mr Macdonald in Croidart, known by the name of Leabhar dearg, and another

ther by Macvurick, bard to Clanronald. With what effrontery then does Laing cite Dr Smith, for what he has not faid? As for the Red book of Macvurick, and the Red rhymer being the fame with the two books of genealogy mentioned by Martin in the end of the 17th century, he may have talked with Mr Martin upon the fubject—I never did, fo know nothing about it.

He then goes on boldly to aver, "that the *many* duodecimos into which the MS (but which of the MSS I know not) is now *multiplied*, are therefore, the identical *Red book of Clanronald*, of the fame fize and Iriſh character which I never met with a Highlander able diſtinctly to read." This, I think, is faying, that the *Red book of Clanronald's bard*, containing the exploits of the Macdonalds—the Red book of Macvurick, the Red rhymer, a *folio* MS, Macvurick's and H. Macdonald's genealogies, are all the identical *Red book of Clanronald*, of the fame 12mo fize and Iriſh character with it, and which *no Highlander is able diſtinctly to read*. I fairly acknowledge my want of abilities to underſtand all this. Mr Laing's own quotation mentions a Mr M'Donald, declaring, "that he had ſeen and read a great part of an ancient MS once in the poſſeſſion of the family of Clanronald, and afterwards carried to Ireland, containing many of Oſſian's poems." Then this fame MS is, by virtue of Mr Laing's hocus pocus, transformed into a life of St Columba; afterwards we find him arguing, that the family of Clanronald knew no other MS than that of the Red book of its bard, which he fays, contains the exploits of the Macdonalds down to 1686, and ſome ſhort ſongs; and now we have the whole MSS transformed into one, viz. the *Red book of Clanronald*, which, ſo far from containing the hiſtory of Columba, or the exploits of the Macdonalds, cannot be read.

He next ſays, (note p. 392.) "The beginning of the 14th and 15th centuries, in which they are ſaid to have been written, are the genealogical dates 1330 and 1400 which Macpherſon of Strathmathie and others miſtook for the date of the volume; the vellum, illuminated letters, and number of volumes at the diſtance of 40 years are merely gratuitous; and *Paul* Macvurick, Clanronald's bard, who tranſcribed or collected Oſſian's poems in the beginning of the 14th century (1300 before the Clanronald family had ſeparated from the lords of the iſles) is no *other* than *Niall* Macmhuirick 1726, whoſe name is annexed in the Iriſh character to moſt of the ſongs." Here we have mere rant. Paul Macmhuirick could *not* have been bard to the predeceſſors of Clanronald; or rather that that family had none exiſting in the 14th century!—Nay, that *Paul* of the 14th century could not poſſibly be *himſelf*, but *Niall* of the 18th century.*

Though formerly he had denied that any ancient MS exiſted in the Highlands, he now acknowledges there are ſome; but then, "theſe are evidently *Iriſh*, as the characters are neither familiar to the Highlanders, nor the conſtructions underſtood by the beſt ſcholars." He in the end of his note, however, acknowledges, that one of Mr Aſtles' ſpecimens inſcribed *Cathal Macmuirnuigh ce*," and found in the High-

* I recollect nothing equal to this, but an advertiſement in the Ballinſloe Journal in July 1792, "Whereas it has been reported, that I was the man pillored about three years ago in Ballinſloe; now I will give five guineas to any one body that will prove the ſame; or I will bet 20 guineas to one, that *I am* not *the other man.—Thady Macburlithy.*

lands, is indisputably Erse; but then says he, "the inscription is evidently superadded, above the illuminated letter, in a *larger* and apparently a different hand; and as the same title *Cathal and Cathal Macmuirnueach ccy* is prefixed in the same character to different ballads in the Red book, we can only conclude, that the *old MS* belonged also in the present century to the same Macvuirick, who inserted his own name above a favourite song."—Still more rant and falsification, Mr Astles' specimen is inscribed *Cathal Macmuirnuigh cc*, the more ancient way of spelling *Macvuirick* (this family being for ages bards to Clanronald*) shows us, that the collection had been made by him at an early period, as is evident from the spelling. Again, the name *Cathal Macmuirneach ccy* in the Red book, must be a different man altogether, perhaps, the son of the former, as the different spellings of the name and adjected letters show; so he puts his name to those he had written or collected: And as to *Nial Macvuirick* 1726 written above some of the songs in the Red book, he was the last of the bards; and probably also collected the songs he inscribes, or perhaps, just adhibited his name and the date, in the way that boys are accustomed to do on books at school.

Manners.

Mr Laing (p. 394.) here adduces Dio and Herodian, the last of whom gives rather a hearsay absurd discription of the Caledonians. Tacitus who was among them, has not observed that they differed from the other Britons. The speech he gives to Galgacus has been every where admired; and even supposing Tacitus himself framed it, yet 'tis impossible to conceive that a man of his abilities and good sense would have presumed to put such noble and spirited sentiments in the mouth of Galgacus, had he deemed him a savage, and unable to utter them. Herodian says they were almost naked, in contradistinction to the full and more elegant dress of the Romans. Indeed, when fighting, they have ever deemed cloathes an impediment; and even so late as the battle of Killiecrankie, the Highlanders fought almost naked, so that a stranger, present at the battle, might have thought and reported of them, that they always used to go as naked.* Dio says they used their women, and supported their children in common, and I believe Jerome says something of the same kind, which most certainly took its rise from the Caledonian practice of the whole people of a family, with their guests, sleeping on rushes or heath on the same floor, and often in the hall, where they dined, a practice but lately disused in the Highlands. Jerome says that when in Gaul, he saw the Scoti, Atacotti, or Catacotti according to the different readings, a British people who ate human flesh. Had this been true of the Caledonians, the custom is so truly monstrous, that we must have heard of it from other authors. The next account exhibited, is that of Gildas a most querulous writer, who very naturally vilifies as much as he can, the enemies of Britain. He is, however,

* We have here two Cathals, and Paul, and Nial, i. e. four different bards living at different periods, which Mr Laing would fain have us to believe were all one.

* This practice was common to the Gauls, Aul. Gellius, Lib. ix. cap. 13. quotes the account of the Gaul who fought with Manlius, whom he describes as *nudus præter scutum et gladios duos torque atque armillis decoratus*; and Plutarch in Mario tells us the Cimbri went naked among the snow of the Alps, to shew their enemies how much they defied the cold.

ever, much more ſevere againſt the Saxons, whoſe dreadful cruelty he mentions in moſt melancholly terms; nor has he even ſpared the Britons themſelves.

Mr Laing (p. 395.) now compares what trifling accounts he has been able to gather of the Caledonian manners, with thoſe in Oſſian, that is the manners deſcribed by enemies, with the hyperbolic poetry of friends, which, as to no ſingle nation on earth, can poſſibly bear any compariſon. That the Caledonians were acquainted both with the uſe of iron and braſs is evident from Dio. Herodian indeed ſays, they were without helmet and mail; theſe they judged impediments in croſſing their marſhes, which certainly was true; but he does not ſay that at all times they were without helmet and mail. Their ſhipping was certainly very trifling, but although they might croſs over to Ireland, or go 20 miles in their Currachs,* yet they certainly had a variety of other veſſels. Shaw affords us no leſs than 15 different vocables for veſſels uſed at ſea, and almoſt the whole of them are original Gaelic words. Sir John Clerk (Topog. Brit.) mentions an ancient boat, found on the banks of Carron, 13 or 14 feet below different ſtrata, which was 36 feet in length, 4½ in breadth, and upwards of 4 feet deep, all of one piece of oak, finely poliſhed, and ſmooth. Scots Mag. March 1802. The Mæatæ, who were for ſome time provincial Britons, would probably learn ſomething of ſhipbuilding from the Romans, and on joining the Caledonians might impart it to them. Hence, one of the vocables for a ſhip is *Naoi*, perhaps from Navis. But it will be recollected, that long before the Romans came here, the Belgæ had navigated to Britain, with their wives and families. And Cæſar, lib. 3. c. 8. tells us, the Veneti of Brittany croſſed to Britain, over the wideſt and ſtormieſt part of the channel, where no currach of Wicker and Skins could poſſibly live. The Belgæ and Veneti might therefore teach the Gael how to build other veſſels than cutrachs. After all, Solinus, in the place quoted by Laing, when talking of the wicker boats, is not ſpeaking of Caledonia, but of Ireland, and of Iriſh navigation.

As to the Caledonian houſes.—They certainly, in general, uſed turf and watled booths, yet it is an undoubted fact, that they had alſo ſtronger and more ſuperb buildings, witneſs the Duns, and vitrified Caſtles, whoſe fragments remain to this day. A reſpectable living author would have us to believe, that the vitrification aroſe from accidental fire, or by an enemy; but that it has not always been ſo, is evident from the ſtatiſtical account of Miegle, by Dr Playfair. The Doctor, in mentioning the narrow bridge over the ditch at Barryhill, ſays, that it is "vitrified *above*, *below*, and on *both ſides*; ſo that the whole maſs was firmly cemented." This, therefore, muſt have been purpoſely done, and exhibits the Caledonians not as ſavages, but as a thinking and conſiderate people. The Romans had not as yet invaded them, and taught them the uſe of mortar. They, however, diſcovered that the filicious genus of ſtones would vitrify, and ſo made uſe of them, and wood, of

* This is a Gaelic word, and ſtill in uſe on the eaſt coaſt of Scotland. The *Currach* is uſed in fiſhing of Salmon. Hence Currach fiſhings. Gildas tranſlates it into Latin *Carrucha*, although the Welch uſe *Karagl*, and ſays the Scots and Picts croſſed the firths in *Carrachs*, which, with the name being ſtill in uſe, is no bad evidence that the Picts and Scots of his time ſpoke the ſame language, and differed from the Welch in dialect. Vide Gildas, P. Virgil's Edit. an. 1525.

of which they had then plenty to form a cement, ſtill more ſtrong and durable than mortar. I might here have mentioned what Pinkerton ſays about theſe vitrified forts, were it any how worthy of notice. Vide Pink. vol. ii. p. 251.

Mr Laing (p. 395.) ſays, "The hunting, paſtoral, and agricultural ſtages of ſociety; the virtue and ſupreme felicity of the ſavage ſtate, are the peculiar doctrines of *modern* times!" This betrays great ignorance of Greek and Roman literature, otherways he muſt have known that the *Saturnia regna*, the golden and heroic ages, and paſtoral life, have ever been the theme of the poets of every country and age, ſo by no means peculiar to the preſent. Any arguments deducible from falſe premiſes muſt be equally falſe.

(390.) Solinus, when deſcribing Britain and its iſlands, obſerves of the *Hebrides*, "*Quarum incolæ neſciunt fruges*," which Mr Laing would fain extend alſo to Caledonia; and he ſneers at M'Pherſon's etymology of *Cruithneach*, the Gaelic name for the *Picts*, *i. e.* wheat eaters. But every body muſt know that had Caledonia alſo been entirely deſtitute of grain, the Hebridians would not have been particularized as ſingular in the want of it; the preſumption therefore undoubtedly is, that grain was at leaſt known, though ſparingly, to the other Caledonians. Galgacus, in his ſpeech ſays, "Our eſtates and poſſeſſions are conſumed in tributes, our *grain in contributions*." Yet he afterwards ſays, (what is true, when the compariſon is with other countries), "We have neither *cultivated lands*, *mines*, nor *harbours*." The Romans on conquering Valentia and Veſpaſiana, two provinces fitted for grain of every kind, could not fail to introduce wheat. Both are at this day corn countries; and the Caledonian inhabitants were firſt called Meatæ, (at leaſt thoſe of Valentia), and afterwards Picti by the Romans, but Cruithneach by the other Caledonians; ſo the etymon ſeems not wholly void of foundation. Rutilius (Iter. 1ſt.) ſays of the Picts whoſe country by Claudian and Richard is alſo called Thule:

——————Conſcia Thule
Et quicunque ferox arva Britannus arat.

The Celtic nations every where cultivated barley, ſtill almoſt the only grain in the north of Scotland. Pliny, lib. 22. c. 5. ſays of the Hordeum: "Ex iiſdem fiunt et potus, Coelia & Ceria in Hiſpania, *Cerviſia*, *et plura genera*, in Gallia, *aliiſque provinciis*," which laſt words may have been meant to denote the then provinces in Britain, nor is the conjecture improbable, ſeeing *Dioscorides*, lib. ii. c. 110. mentions *Curmi*, a drink made from barley by the Britons. The Gauls when they peopled the iſland would naturally bring the cultivation of barley along with them; nor would even the ſoil of the Highlands be, at an early period, ſo ungrateful as at preſent. The Americans on the firſt clearing of their woods, experienced much better crops than now, which would alſo be the caſe in Caledonia. Rye, peculiar to cold countries, ſeems alſo to be a Celtic grain. *Secale*, the name given to it by Pliny, evinces its introduction from Gaul, where it was called *Sel*, or *Secla*; by the Armoricans *Segal*, from whence the *Seigle* of the French. The Highlanders call it *Seagl*. The Corniſh Soigel, and Iriſh Segol, all from the Gaelic. * After all, agriculture muſt have been very far from general in the Weſt Highlands. A few patches of barley and rye here and there, could never entitle the Highlands to the name of cultivated lands.

* The Engliſh *Rye*, Saxon *Rigi*, *Reg* of the Welſh, and *Rogge* of the Teutonic dialects, words entirely differing from the Celtic, ſeem to be derived from the Slavonic or Sarmatic *Rog*.

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Religion.

We now come to religion. He says the gods and rites of the Caledonians were unknown, and that M'Pherson kept off that subject, for fear of detection, or from the danger or difficulty of inventing a religious mythology. Now it is self-evident, that had he meant to fabricate, he had here a fair field left him to do it, without the possibility of detection. And no body can believe that the person possessed of a genius to frame a work like Ossian's, would shrink from the danger or difficulty of so easy a matter. Indeed the very circumstance of no mythology appearing in Ossian, is presumptive evidence that he translated from originals; more especially as Marcellinus tells us, (lib. xv. cap. 9.) that it was only the business of the bards to chant the actions of heroes, while *religion*, and sublimer speculations, were the province of the *Druids and Eubages*. Had the poems of Ossian been the fabrication of the last century, I have no doubt that the goddess *Adraste* of *Boadicia*, would have made a splendid figure, and have been introduced along with the Gallic deities mentioned by Lucan (lib. i.):

> Teutates, horrensque feris altaribus Hesus,
> Et Taranis Scythicæ non mitior Ara Dianæ.

Gildas mentions some of the British deities previous to Roman heathenism, to which the Highlanders at this day pay a kind of respect, such as the spirit of the sun, of the storm, the genius of the hill, the fountain, and the sea.

Customs.

He says, (p. 397.) "The *same difficulty* occurred in the adaptation of circumstances, peculiar customs, or rites of the age," which only requires a similar answer to that made above. As to the Caledonian beverage being left to obscure conjecture! I do not understand the observation. Would Mr Laing have an epic poem to contain receipts for brewing and distilling? or Ossian to give the vulgar and unpoetic name of a drink then universally known. This is hardly to be expected. The very silence to me is a proof that the poems are no fabrication. Had it been otherways, Mr M'Pherson would have plenished his goblets and shells with whiskey, made like that of the Siberians, of mare or cow's milk, with wine of the birch, the heath, or the fomented juice of the mountain berry; or even with the *fyre* of the ancient Norwegians, and present Icelanders. Thus a fabricator would have chosen to reconcile the beverage of Fingal to the hunting and pastoral ages, and at same time have satisfied Mr Laing's curiosity. The common drink of the Caledonians must have been like that of the Britons mentioned by Cæsar, and Diodorus Siculus, *viz.* water, milk, and meed, Ireland alone being said by Solinus to be destitute of bees. The cervisia of Pliny is already mentioned, for which the Gael have *Lean*; a word, if not included among the *plura genera* of Pliny, peculiar to the Gael; and by no means like the English word *ale*, (the Islandic *öl*) and beer, borrowed from the Teutonic. Dioscorides names one kind of barley drink *zythum*, and another *curmi*; used in Spain and Britain. Both words appear in Ulpian, *l. si quis ff. de tritic. at vin. leg.* Now *curmi* and *curaw*, says Whitaker, are used by the Welsh for ale; and Dr M'Pherson says, that every great feast in the Highlands is called *curmi*; and we in the lowlands call our harvest feast *kirne*, words which may be derived from the Gaelic *eorna*, barley, meaning the feast of the barley, or barley harvest. It is therefore exceedingly probable, that the Caledonians, like the other Britains, used

malt

malt liquor at times, and why not wine alſo, which they might get in exchange for Caledonian bears, Scottiſh dogs, and morſe teeth, (the ivory mentioned by Strabo as coming from Britain) &c. If Virius, Lupus, and Baſſianus, purchaſed peace from the Caledonians with money, what ſhould hinder them, in return, from purchaſing wine from the Romans with part of that money. Diod. Siculus, lib. v. tells us, the Roman merchants found it for their advantage to trade in wine with the Gauls, then deſtitute of that article; and why not alſo with the Britons, in after times.

He next ſays, (p. 397.) "In the firſt fragments of Fingal, the tree of the ruſtling leaf was the *trembling poplar, crann na crith*, or *crithian*, a literal tranſlation of the Saxon *aspin*; but the tranſlator diſcovered that the *poplar* was introduced by the Romans, and ſuppreſſed the name." Now a critic ſhould ſurely know ſomething of his ſubject before he begins his comment. The aſpin is truly a poplar, one of the *populi*, and called the *trembling poplar* in England—is a native of Caledonia, and of the Weſtern iſles. The yew tree is alſo a native of Caledonia. Mr Laing ſays he is well accommodated with books, let him turn up Lightfoot's Flor. Scot. Vol. ii. p. 626. and he will learn ſomething of the yew tree, and find that Glenure; in Upper Lorn, gets its very name from the wild yew trees growing upon it.

His next obſervation is more to the purpoſe. The ſilence, ſays he, reſpecting the mooſe deer in the hiſtory of Ireland, whoſe large horns are found in its bogs, is a ſufficient refutation of *its Oſſianic antiquity, and pretenſion to letters before the Chriſtian æra*; and that the omiſſion of *wild cattle, wolfs, boars, and bears*, of the Caledonian foreſt, reflects equal diſcredit on Oſſian. Oſſian did not write a hiſtory of quadrupeds, but an epic poem, in which boars, and boar-hunting are occaſionally mentioned. In Dr Smith's Diarmid, we have rather a fooliſh account of one; and he alſo mentions the wolf in *Dan clainne mbuirne*. The wolf, madadh alladh, or wild dog, may have been tamed and uſed in hunting by the Caledonians, as the original inhabitants of America were accuſtomed to do; and it was probably from them that the Highland greyhounds originated, perhaps the Scotici Canes of Symachus, now I believe extinct. The common black cattle ran moſtly wild in the Highlands; and as for the Urus, or Bezon Scoticus, it probably may not be mentioned in Oſſian; their ſkeletons being generally found to the ſouth of the firths where paſturage was more abundant. I am ſomewhat at a loſs to account for the Bear not having been mentioned, which is the caſe, as far as I know. They perhaps were not common in Argyleſhire. At any rate, had the poems of Oſſian been the work of a late age, and of a claſſical ſcholar, ſuch as M'Pherſon, the Caledonian bear would not have been forgot.

Mr Laing next ſays, the method of dreſſing veniſon in pits lined with hot ſtones, is tranſcribed from Keating's account of the Fions, or Iriſh militia; and yet he ſays it is the only *appropriate cuſtom of the age*. If ſo, what occaſion is there for borrowing from Keating. The heroes of Homer did the ſame. Homer only flouriſhed about 80 years after the Trojan war, an age not much better improved than the one he deſcribes. Dr Gillies has ſaved Mr Laing any criticiſm upon that head. *

* Gillies' Greece, vol. i. p. 112 and 121.

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From the genuine Oſſian, he ſays, (p. 398.) we ſhould obtain ſome inſight into domeſtic manners, arts, and occupations, dreſs, diverſions, houſes, beverage, and religious rites. Had Oſſian written his poems for the purpoſe of explaining and handing down to poſterity the hiſtory of thoſe ſubjects, I dare ſay he would have done it. He however has touched upon ſome of them *paſſim*. Mr Laing has already carped at his cookery, and we ſhall ſtill find him going on to carp at every hint he gives. Thus the occupation of hawking he denies to the Caledonians, though without any proof. The early wiſh of children, and of manhood in infancy, is to poſſeſs and tame birds and animals. Hence the dog ſoon became domeſticated, and was kept to catch other quadrupeds, as the hawk would alſo be trained to catch birds. The Thracians and Britons uſed hawking. The Romans knew it in Pliny's time, and may have derived it from one of them. Nemeſianus writes expreſsly *de Aucupio*. Oſſian however only mentions the offer of 100 hawks, which can ſcarcely imply a knowledge of hawking. As to the Iriſh ballad he talks of, with the hundred handmaids, and hundred ſanctified girdles, an apple, and arrow of gold, &c. it is not Oſſian's, and I have nothing to ſay to it. I am however indebted to him for the idea of the ſhields in Oſſian, reſounding like an Indian Gong. The brazen apple mentioned by Dio might no doubt heighten the effect, yet I only believed they had emitted a ſound ſimilar to that of the ſhields of Homer, or the northern Scalds. Thus Snorro Sturleſon ſimply ſays, "*Skekr röríd*," the Boſſes ring.

(*To be Continued.*)

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

ON THE DISADVANTAGES RESULTING FROM DISPUTING SOCIETIES.

(Concluded from page 719.)

BUT to ſuppoſe, that the diſcuſſion of religious ſubjects is hurtful to piety, implies that they are deſtitute of that evidence which can bear a diſcuſſion. If they are not, the more their evidence is examined, the more firmly will the mind be convinced of their truth: and to believe without evidence, is credulity, and not faith. Religion declines not a fair and candid diſcuſſion. Often has it been attacked, and as often has it been ably vindicated. When opinions of a dangerous tendency are publiſhed to the world, it is certainly the duty of the friends of religion to oppoſe and controvert them. Indeed, it may be ſafely affirmed, that, had there been no controverſies about religious ſubjects, the dominion of the Pope might have, by this time, been univerſal, and the pure religion of Jeſus diſgraced by ſuperſtition, or deſtroyed by infidelity.

THESE controverſies, it is true, have

have been productive of much miſchief to the Chriſtian world. When men are irritated by oppoſition, and heated by paſſion, they think of nothing but of vindicating themſelves, and expoſing their antagoniſts. The natural conſequences of this diſpoſition are partiality, jealouſy, envy, impatience of contradiction, and other angry paſſions which deſtroy the principles of piety and devotion. Diſputing ſocieties, however, ſo far from producing theſe conſequences, have generally, a contrary effect. They call the attention of the ſtudent to the examination of truths, which it is the duty of every man to conſider; excite in him an intereſt to collect every argument that can be brought to their ſupport; and thus eſtabliſh his belief upon a broad and rational foundation. In diſputes, indeed, no weight is laid upon feeling. This, as well as evidence, comes under the cognizance of reaſon. To regulate our conduct by feeling or ſentiment, would be, in plainer terms, to do whatever was agreeable. It would be, to ſubvert at once, the principles of morality, and to give a looſe to all the paſſions, which it belongs to reaſon to regulate and reſtrain. Thus by diſtruſting the uncertain evidence of ſentiment, with reſpect to religion, diſputing ſocieties direct to a guide, which, if prudently followed, will lead to the belief and practice of divine truths.

WITHOUT entering further into the diſadvantages which have been ſaid to reſult from Diſputing Societies, I ſhall only take notice of ſome inveſtives that have been thrown out againſt them. Their members, it has been ſaid, are often admitted at too early a period of life, and contract a habit of haranguing upon ſubjects which they have never inveſtigated. They have been accuſed of being fruitful nurſeries of every thing that is *pompouſly ridiculous*. The operation of vanity and ignorance, which they have been ſaid to produce, has been compared to the tilting of a balance. Such opprobrious reflections are very improper to be employed againſt an inſtitution, which has now exiſted in this country for a conſiderable period, and which is ſtill maintained and encouraged by young men diſtinguiſhed for their talents and their virtues.

I HAVE already endeavoured to ſhew, that theſe aſſociations are chiefly adapted to perſons at an early period of life, and who have made no very conſiderable progreſs in the proſecution of their ſtudies. Theſe perſons may, and ſometimes indeed do, harangue upon ſubjects, with which they are very little acquainted. But authors alſo ſometimes adopt a ſimilar practice. They attempt to write upon ſubjects, for which they are altogether unqualified; become vain of the little acquirements they have made; ſend forth to the world their crude, miſhapen productions; and thus render themſelves truly ridiculous. But how the operation of vanity and ignorance combined, can be compared to a balance, is not very eaſily perceived. If the compariſon was meant to ſhew, that as ignorance increaſes, vanity diminiſhes, and *vice verſa*, the directly contrary is the truth. But perhaps, it was only a pompous expreſſion, without any definite meaning. Such expreſſions may dazzle the ignorant, but they can only excite the contempt of the more diſcerning. Till more powerful objections be made, than what have hitherto been produced, diſputing ſocieties may continue to flouriſh, notwithſtanding every attempt to vilify them. While we would allow, that like every other inſtitution, they are attended with diſadvantages, we ought never to forget the ſuperior re-

benefit to be derived from them, particularly to thoſe, whoſe views are directed to the pulpit or the bar. Much, however, will depend upon the laws, by which they are regulated, and the members of which they are compoſed. If ſufficient attention be paid to theſe things, the beſt effects may be expected to follow; but if theſe be neglected, they will become liable to all the objections that have been brought againſt them.

PERHAPS, one of the beſt methods for reviving the ſtudy of claſſical learning, would be, the eſtabliſhment of ſocieties, for the purpoſe of explaining, criticizing, and commenting upon the authors of antiquity; and likewiſe, "of pointing out new editions of the claſſics, ſtating their reſpective merits, and candidly judging of their pretenſions to excellence." Could the ſtudents, at the Scotiſh univerſities, be induced to adopt ſuch a plan,* and to purſue it with vigour; a new ardour for philological inveſtigations might be excited, and gradually diffuſed through the remoteſt part of the country. Scotland might recover from its preſent tendency to degenerate, and arrive at the firſt eminence, in philological learning.

Edinburgh, July 23. 1802. } ACADEMICUS.

* An account of a ſociety at Leipſic upon a plan ſomewhat ſimilar to this, will be found in the Scots Magazine for March laſt, p. 237.

STRICTURES ON LITERARY PATRONAGE.

IN every country where learning has been cultivated, there has always been more or leſs literary patronage. The number of *real* patrons, however, has in no age or country been equal to what the importance and the utility of letters were entitled. The literature, both of ancient and modern times, can only boaſt of a very few names who have been honourably recorded as the generous patrons of genius and learned induſtry. What is Alexander in Greece, Mæcenas and Pollio in Rome, Leo X. and Lorenzo de Medici at the revival of letters, Louis XIV. and Frederic III. in modern Europe; with a very few more in each of theſe ages, to the vaſt number of ancient patricians, and modern nobles, whoſe opportunities were equal, and who, in their reſpective ages and ſituations, might have aided in promoting the cauſe, in which their princes and their peers have acquired an immortal name? For theſe, pleaſures and purſuits, comparatively ignoble, have had greater zeſt, for which their memories have been juſtly conſigned to everlaſting oblivion.

IN conſequence of the different arrangements, and modes of thinking in modern ſociety, learning is now held in more requeſt, and has become more general than it was in ancient military governments. It is in ſome degree the faſhion of the age, and confers a ſuperiority upon the individual who cultivates or proteſts it. Whatever becomes faſhionable will have many abettors. Hence a number of pretended patrons have affected to encourage the profeſſors of literature. What is the character of this group who have preſumed to range themſelves on the bench of the republic of letters? Some of them are influenced merely by the ever-varying caprice

of faſhion, and patronize a youth of genius, as they protect a ſkilful horſe-jockey. Others are actuated by a different modification of vanity, and the wiſh to procure to themſelves private adulation, and public applauſe. Few, very few, are thoſe who, from a generous love of literature, and the public good, mixed as it muſt be with a laudable love of fame, ſeek to encourage the efforts of learned ſkill, and fan the flame of inſpiration.

Many of theſe pretended Mæcenas's would willingly appropriate all the reputation of this dignified character, without any of the cares, the coſts, and the privations which it neceſſarily involves. They will readily give advices, for theſe are eaſily imparted; and the taſk is the more agreeable, becauſe it implies the idea of ſuperiority, both in ſhrewdneſs and in ſituation. They will even dare to dictate; for the very office of a patron, unleſs in diſcreet hands, encourages preſumption. They will point out what ought, and what ought not to be done, without troubling themſelves in what manner theſe are to be accompliſhed. Perhaps the honour of a few viſits may be allowed, and, it may be, returned with wonderful condeſcenſion! But when the eſſential duties of this office ſhould be diſcharged—when real deeds ſhould be performed, inſtead of empty promiſes given—when the heart ſhould be generous as the tongue has been free; what a mortifying change takes place! what ſorry ſhuffling! what meagre apologies! ſtuffed with all the parade of rotten politeneſs, without one ſpark of generous magnanimity.

Is it the buſineſs of a patron to tell what he can do, and what he has done? to explain his unbounded powers, and deſcribe his extenſive connections—to wound the delicacy of one, by detailing the numerous obligations of another—to extort a compliment, by ſhewing that it is due—to tantalize, inſtead of conferring actual benefits—and renew the ancient inſult of giving, inſtead of bread, a ſtone, and inſtead of fiſh, a ſerpent! Such impoſtors ought to be fixed on the pillories of literature, and held up to the ſcorn of thoſe upon whom they would attempt to impoſe; a mark ſhould be ſet upon them, that they may no more go about to deceive; and the fire of indignation ought to be let looſe upon ſuch as, without unction, and the proper qualifications, would preſumptuouſly aſpire to miniſter in the tabernacle of letters.

The man who has a juſt claim to the dignified character of a true patron, is one who is actuated by ſentiments, in which are conjoined the honourable views of a gentleman—the delicate eſteem of a friend—and the warm affection of a father, without the auſterity of a domineering parent. He is more anxious for the ultimate welfare of his protegee, than careful in procuring immediate gratification to his own private vanity. Modeſty reſpecting his own merits, characterizes and ſanctifies all his generous exertions in behalf of others. He diſdains to indulge in boaſting declamations. He keeps no catalogue of his good works. He will not announce to the world by trump of herald, the inſtitutions he has founded—the names of ſuch as were ſaved by his bounty—the ſhelters he has afforded to unfortunate talents, and the purſes of poets which he has filled. Such illuſtrious deeds are done without oſtentation, and left to teſtify of themſelves. The recollection of them lives in the boſoms of thoſe upon whom they were conferred, without being ſtirred up by continual alluſions. The bread of ſuch a man is caſt upon the waters; and

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it is to him an object of no great ſolicitude whether he ſhall, or whether he ſhall not, find it after many days.

Yet the memory of the juſt ſhall live; and the warmeſt gratitude ſhall ſpontaneouſly ariſe in return for noble actions which ſprang from worthy principles. None of all thoſe things which are conferred upon an elevated mind can be loſt; but the gratitude of ſuch is too diſcriminating, to make the ſame return for what was gratuitouſly beſtowed, and what was bartered for public applauſe, with all the accuracy of a trader. The feelings of virtuous genius cannot ſympathize with thoſe of ſuch huckſters of patronage; they are not to be regulated like the balance of exchange; but they will always kindly harmonize with ſuch as reſemble their own nature, and the generous action will always beget the generous return.

It is not the buſineſs of a patron to attach himſelf with irkſome officiouſneſs, to literary characters already eminent, in order to ſhare a part of their reputation. Theſe ſtand in no need of ſuch patronage; and it is a ſpecies of injuſtice to appropriate part of the booty, in acquiring which no exertions have been made, and no ſtrength has been ſpent. But is the proper duty of a patron to ſeek for obſcure merit—to elicit the latent fire of genius—to guard the tender nurſling, amid the ſtorms which riſe around him—to lead him from darkneſs to light, and create, as it were, a *new* thing in the earth.

After all, the difficulties, the turmoils, and the anxious labours of aſpiring talents, have been crowned with eventual ſucceſs, and are about to receive their reward. After the veſſel has braved all the violence of the tempeſts, and is now in ſight of the harbour, to ſend out ferry-boats, to lend an aſſiſtance, now no longer needful, is an inſult which may be frequently repeated. But I truſt they will always meet the contempt with which they were regarded, in the inſtance to which I allude. There are Cheſterfields at this day, and it is to be wiſhed, that ſo much of the ſpirit of a Johnſon may yet remain, as to reject, with proper ſcorn, the offer of ſuch unavailing patronage.

Neither is money, it muſt be remembered, to be the only medium of connection betwixt a patron and his protegee. There are ſome caſes where ſervices of this kind are neceſſary, and there are others where they would be improper. Prudence and diſcretion, in the patron, together with a knowledge of the particular circumſtances of the protegee, muſt regulate the management of occaſional donations. There will be little difficulty, in any caſe, in diſcovering the proper objects, and the fit opportunities, for diſplaying a due generoſity. The gift of money would affront the delicacy of ſome, and it may lead to improper conduct in others. The diſcretion of an elevated mind would induce one to make a proper uſe of what was beſtowed, to accompliſh ſome laudable purpoſes; while money, in the poſſeſſion of another, acquired without labour, and held without a knowledge of its value, might prove hurtful, inſtead of a bleſſing to him. Let not theſe obſervations, however, tie up the purſes of patrons, as things of no value. Independent of private donations to unfortunate individuals, there will be many occaſions, in the ſphere of patronage, for a diſplay of liberality, where pecuniary ſupplies will produce much good, without directly offending any one. Theſe occaſions can ſcarcely be miſtaken, though avarice may often plead ignorance.

Buds of genius opening in the

valleys

vallies! Youths, whoſe hearts have been touched with a live-coal from the altar of inſpiration, and who, in your ſequeſtered abodes, are longing for celebrity in your ſeveral profeſſions; to you I would humbly beg leave to addreſs ſome remarks. Perhaps you are deſtined to eminence, and anxious for the accompliſhment. But be not too ſanguine in your hopes. Moderate the exuberancy of your imaginary expectations. Be diligent in acquiring that merit, and thoſe ſuperlative endowments, which alone can render you diſtinguiſhed. Truſt to nothing but what you yourſelves can accompliſh. Every man muſt be the maker of his own fortune. Place little or nothing to the account of patronage. This may indeed prove advantageous, but it is uncertain. A man who ſets out unprovided upon a journey, would be very fortunate, were he to find an unclaimed purſe by the way; but who would abide by ſuch a contingency? You ought not to be too anxious to ſecure a patron; perhaps you ſhould be altogether paſſive in this ſituation, and labour rather to be courted from the greatneſs of your deſerts, than to enquire after one who may impute to you more than you deſerve. The very circumſtance of having a patron, though it may be uſeful in one reſpect, is rather hurtful in others. Sometimes it ſlackens perſeverance, and a perſon relies more upon the exertions of his patron, than upon his own endeavours to be eminent. Beſides, a young man who is announced to the public notice by a patron, is liable to have his merit ſuſpected. Singular excellence ſtands in little need of adventitious aid, and the influence of a friend is often a neceſſary ſuccedaneum for perſonal merit. He who flouriſhes by the favour of another, is like a weakly plant which needs the artificial foſtering of a hot-bed, without which it would ſicken and die. Strive rather to reſemble the hardineſs of the mountain-tree, which thrives in every ſoil—which lives in the bleak blaſt of the hill, and defies the fury of every tempeſt!

THE office of a patron requires high qualifications, which but few poſſeſs; and it is better to have no patron than an improper one. When offers of ſervice are made, be cautious how you receive them—make a candid eſtimate of your own powers—ſtudy the peculiarities in the diſpoſition of your friend—and aſcertain whether he is worthy of the dignity after which he aſpires. Connections of this kind are often haſtily formed, and, for this reaſon, broken off abruptly.

A PATRON is often procured at the expence of that dignity of mind which ought to be the characteriſtic of talents. Deſpiſe all protection held upon ſuch ignoble terms. Remember, above all things, that your virtuous independence is not to be ſacrificed—that no unworthy conceſſions are to be made—that your honour, as men, is to be preſerved entire; and that you muſt not degenerate into the ſilly, ſupported creature, of a man of rank.

A PATRON will maintain the dignity of his patrician ſituation. Be you as careful to ſupport the honour which ſhould always be attached to talents and worth. You will owe much to generous exertions: but the obligations are not all on your ſide: a patron is honoured by an eminent protegee, and his official character is part of his reward. In a word, betwixt a patron and his protegee, let there exiſt that fairneſs and cordiality of intercourſe, which ought always to take place, and which the world will expect, when the one is worthy of his character, and the other deſerving of protection.

Etterick Foreſt. A. M.

For the Scots Magazine.

ON A POETICAL TRANSLATION OF THE SONGS AND LAMENTATIONS, OR ODES, ELEGIES, AND PASTORALS, IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

WHILST within the laſt hundred years, the moſt elegant Tranſlations of the Greek and Latin Claſſics have appeared, it is ſurpriſing no pains ſhould have been taken to give us a tranſlation of the Bible, ſomewhat like the original.

As to the Profaic part, it ſeems to have been executed in the beſt ſtile of Proſe compoſition at the time it was written: But a great part of what was Poetry in the original, has been given us in Proſe in our tranſlation, and continues ſo, except the Pſalms, and a few Poetical Paraphraſes on ſuch detached parts as ſtruck the compoſers.—*Prior's Solomon* is a fanciful Poetical Hiſtory of that monarch. In *The Fair Circaſſian*, as a tranſlation of the Song of Solomon, the writer does not leave room for conſidering it as an allegorical performance; whilſt others have run into the contrary extreme. Complaints are often made how little the Scriptures are read: but it may ſafely be aſſerted, that any other ancient work, tranſlated, as the Scriptures, that is, from poetry to proſe, would long ago have fallen into oblivion. This circumſtance affords a ſtrong proof of the majeſty and ſublimity of the Scriptures, in the original, above any human compoſition.

To put the poetical parts of the Holy Scriptures upon an equal footing with the works of the Ancients, it ſeems requiſite a Poetical Tranſlation ſhould be made of the Songs, Hymns, and Lamentations, or, Odes, Paſtorals, and Elegies, ſyſtematically, as they occur; as thoſe of Moſes, on paſſing the Red Sea, and before his death;—of Deborah and Barak, on their victory over Siſera;—that of Hannah, on having a Son;—the Lamentation of David for Saul and Jonathan;—the Song of Praiſe, Iſaiah, c. 26;—Heſekiah's Thankſgiving, c. 38;—Part of the Lamentations of Jeremiah; and the Prayer of Habakkuk.—The Song of Solomon might be turned into Paſtoral Poetry; the Book of Job, poſſibly with advantage, into blank verſe; and the Pſalms might be reviſed and retouched; as a complete new Tranſlation would offend ſome ſcrupulous, though well meaning perſons. This reviſal, and the tranſlation of the Songs and Lamentations, or, Odes and Elegies, were a taſk for which the late Mr Logan was admirably adapted; but there are perſons at preſent in the Church of Scotland, capable of giving all the elegance, ſublimity and pathos of the odes and elegies to a tranſlation, and who could with great facility turn the Song of Solomon into Paſtoral Poetry, clear of all extremes; and the Book of Job into blank verſe.

WHEN this was finiſhed, the Tranſlation might be ſubmitted to the General Aſſembly, for their approbation, and the Poetical Parts afterwards publiſhed like the Paraphraſes.

THIS

THIS, if well executed, would be a work much to the honour of the Scotiſh Clergy, and for the intereſt of religion, by turning the attention of readers of taſte more to the peruſal of the Scriptures.

LAICUS.

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

SIR,

THE incloſed letter is the firſt of a ſeries received by me from a young man born in Etterick Foreſt, and literally bred there in the humble ſituation of a ſhepherd. Various cauſes have concurred, in Scotland, to excite and encourage acuteneſs of obſervation, and ſtrength of character, even among thoſe who have reaped few or no advantages from fortune and from education. From the remarks of ſuch men, eſpecially upon ſubjects which they have been accuſtomed to conſider with accuracy, more information may be derived than perhaps the pride of lettered rank will readily allow. We often hear the trite remark, that a ſtranger uſually ſees more of a town which he viſits upon his travels, than thoſe who have all their life been its inhabitants. Something like this may occur in the fields of knowledge. Thoſe whoſe education has commenced with the firſt opening of their ideas, who have never known what it was to be at large from the trammels of an inſtructor, who have been as it were, "rocked and craddled, and dandled" into men of literature, may be conſidered as the denizens of the realms of taſte and ſcience. But the uneducated and hardy intruder, whoſe natural ſtrength of mind impels him to ſtudy, and to whoſe reſearches novelty gives all its charms, may, while bewildering himſelf in unknown ſtreets, and occaſionally miſtaking gewgaws and trinkets for real treaſures, view nevertheleſs receſſes untrod before, and diſcover beauties neglected by thoſe who have been bred up among them.

I FELT myſelf deeply impreſſed with the truth of thoſe obſervations, on peruſing part of the journal which my correſpondent had kept during a diſtant highland tour, and at my requeſt, he undertook to digeſt his travelling obſervations into a ſeries of letters. Should you think them worthy of a place in your Publication I ſhould hope many of your readers may be amuſed, and even inſtructed, in following the views and ideas of ſuch a character as I have deſcribed, eſpecially when I aſſure you, that it is not aſſumed to give a factitious intereſt to the letters, which are really and unaffectedly the production of a ſhepherd of Etterick Foreſt.

I remain,
SIR,
Your humble ſervant,
S. W.

Edinburgh,
26th Sept. 1802.

For

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND,

IN THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST 1802, IN A SERIES OF LETTERS TO ——— ———, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,

AS you desired me, I am now to give you an account of my late journey thro' the North Highlands, and am afraid you will be much disappointed in the perusal. Were it not, indeed, that I know that you admire nature most when most simply dressed, I should not at all have attempted it; but, encouraged by this, I will endeavour to lead your eyes to every scene over which mine wandered with amazement, whether of majestical deformity, or natural elegance; and though I am conscious how greatly deficient my intelligence hath been, it being merely an outside view of things which I am enabled to present, I have the satisfaction, however, of being assured, that I am communicating them to a mind capable of giving every hint its full expansion.

ABOUT ten years ago, I had occasion to make a jaunt through the west of Stirlingshire, Montieth, Breadalbane, and Glenorchy, in which district, as you well know, there are as striking views of Grampian scenery, as are any where to be met with. Here, too, I found the economy of sheep farming; not, as I expected, in its infancy; but managed with as much success and care, as the same species of sheep were in the counties south of the Tweed: and as no body told me otherwise, I returned, fully convinced, that the whole Highlands, as far as John o'Groats House, were stocked in the same manner; and hence formed conclusions with regard to the state of our markets, very different from the result.

LAST year, again, I took another journey through the eastern parts of the Grampian Hills, penetrating as far as the sources of the Dee, where I beheld large tracts of fine pasture countries appropriated to—I know not what, unless to the benefit of such wild beasts of the field, and fowls of the heaven, as are pleased to make them their resting places. I gathered, however, as much information as furnished good matter of discourse with my country neighbours for a twelve-month, and some stories, that, with a little colouring, made them stare exceedingly. Consulting several tours through Scotland, I found in none of them any observations on the great neglect of sheep stock, which is our chief staple commodity, and the only animal, for the rearing of which a great part of Scotland seems designed by nature.

My own remarks being in time worn thread bare, and being unable to recruit them from the observations of others, I resolved upon a more extensive circuit; and accordingly, I left Etterick on the 22d of July 1802, and took the road by Blackhouse and Peebles for Edinburgh. But as you will expect me to describe, as I go along, I must tell you what sort of a place Etterick is. If you already know, you may divert yourself by comparing this with the impression engraven on your own remembrance; and, if you do not, it is time you did. At any rate, it will form a striking contrast with other countries which we must immediately survey.

The name Etterick is of great antiquity. The Gaelic term, from which I am told it is derived, hath ſome reference to darkneſs; and it is believed to have been deſcriptive of ſylvan ſcenery, rather of a diſmal nature, probably in the near neighbourhood of the pariſh church, as it is there only that ſundry places are thus particularized, as Old Etterick-hill, Etterick-houſe, Etterick-hall, Etterick-penn, &c. although the whole country is termed Etterick Foreſt.

The hills are generally of a beautiful deep green, thick covered with ſheep; high and ſteep, though nowiſe rugged or tremendous. The higheſt is Phaup-penn, which riſes 2370 feet above the level of the ſea. The view, from the top of this mountain, is very extenſive to the ſouth and eaſt; but northwards, is immediately intercepted by the interpoſition of Hertfell and the White Coom, betwixt which, the palm has been diſputed as the higheſt in Scotland ſouth of the Forth, though it certainly belongs to the latter, its elevation above the ſea being 2840 feet. The view from this mountain is truly aſtoniſhing, and is, I believe, unequalled in Britain. To the north-eaſt and ſouth-weſt, it is loſt in the German and Iriſh ſeas; all around, to the ſouth and eaſt, at prodigious diſtances, riſe the Fells of Cockermouth, Skiddaw, Cheviot, and Lammermoor; and, in the interſtices between theſe, it is loſt in ſpace. The afternoon, when the ſun is well about, is the time for a view ſouthward, when all the countries that lye betwixt theſe mountains, with their varied ſcenery, are ſeen at one glance. But the rugged grandeur of the ſcene almoſt immediately below your feet, ſoon attracts the eye, and draws all the attention: There, you ſee Loch Skene, with its ſurrounding rocks, which hath been, time out of mind, the impregnable refuge of the fox, the eagle, and all the other beaſts and birds of prey known in theſe countries: There, you ſee the famous cataract, called the Grey-mare's-tail, (overhung by the Bubbly craig on the one ſide, and Turnberry on the other,) which falls, with only one ſmall intermiſſion, near 300 feet.

The contemplation of theſe objects naturally fills the mind with diſmal and melancholy ideas; but you have only to lift your eyes to behold the cheering and enlivening proſpect of a large extent of country, flouriſhing in peace and plenty, and all the corners of the world pouring in their commerce on each ſide of you. Here, I will leave you to your own reflections during the night; and if you awake in time the next morning, and the ſky clear, you will ſee the ſmoke riſing, in many a ſmall ſtreamer, out of the city of Glaſgow, and, beyond that, the ſovereigns of the North, headed by Ben Lomond, like a regiment of blue pyramids, towering their everlaſting tops behind one another, vying with emulation, who ſhall be firſt to bid good-morrow to the ſun. But this is taking the near cut to the Highlands with a vengeance; ſo I muſt, after begging your pardon for this digreſſion, which I am careleſs whether you grant or not, return to Etterick, which I left abruptly from the top of Phaup-penn. The next to it in proportion, is Etterick Penn, which riſes behind the church to the height of 2200 feet above the ſea, and is commonly called the Weird Loa. All the mountains of a detached nature, eſpecially thoſe whoſe outline forms a ſemicircle, or even an octave, are diſtinguiſhed by the name of Law's, or La'a's, of which there are a great many.

The river Etterick taketh its riſe five miles S. S. E. of the village of Moffat, and runs a courſe of 30 miles. About a mile and an half above Selkirk,

Selkirk, it is augmented one half, by the tribute of its ſiſter Yarrow; and as far below that ancient burgh, the Tweed is increaſed nearly one half by theſe united ſtreams. It receives likewiſe in its courſe, beſides innumerable other rivulets, the two pretty paſtoral ſtreams of Tyma and Rankleburn, exactly ſimilar in length, largeneſs, and ſoil. The latter was, at an early period, the original poſſeſſion of the Scotts of Buccleugh, which is ſtill the name of the farm, through which it flows, and the title by which that noble peer is diſtinguiſhed. His Grace is the principal proprietor, both in Etterick and Yarrow, and is the father and benefactor of his country. His name is never mentioned but with reſpect: His health is the firſt toaſt at all convivial meetings; and the houſe of Buccleugh, by many of mine honeſt countrymen, is believed to be the moſt ancient and honourable now exiſting. I once ran a riſk of being mobbed for mentioning, as its competitors at leaſt, thoſe of Auſtria and Brunſwick; and, during the remainder of the evening, was diſtinguiſhed by the outlandiſh name of *the Hanoverian*.

Since my remembrance, his Grace's tenants have only had leaſes from one year to another; but ſo aſſured are they of their welfare being conſulted, and of their Chief's ſtability, that every man cultivates his farm with as much aſſurance as if he had a liferent tack. He hath now offered them leaſes for ten or eleven years. Lord Napier poſſeſſeth a large eſtate around the church, of which he is patron. There are ſundry other conſiderable proprietors.

The two rivers, Etterick and Yarrow, form properly what is called Etterick Foreſt, which was the Sylva Caledonia of the ancients, and is now the Arcadia of Britain, the whole ſcene, life, and manners of the inhabitants being truly paſtoral. In the upper parts of the country ſmall indeed are the remains of the wood with which it was once wholly covered; but in the lower parts there is ſome, both natural and planted. The diſtrict abounds with old towers, which, in their time, had been places of ſtrength; and there is not one in ten that hath not ſome time been inhabited by the Scots, branches of the family of Buccleugh. The lives of the principal ſhepherds, for ſo I denominate the ſtore-farmers, are very eaſy, and, to thoſe who can reliſh ſuch a life, elegant and agreeable. They are much employed during the Summer in arranging and marketing their flocks. Their chief rural diverſions, in that ſeaſon, are fowling, and fiſhing with the rod. In Winter, they aſſemble in mixed clubs to curl on the ice, and trace the fox or hare, when the evenings are ſpent in the higheſt mirth and jollity. Singing, dancing, and drinking, alternately enſue; and in very few families is the latter ever carried to exceſs. They delight greatly in poetry and muſic, in which ſundry are conſiderable proficients. Burns's are the favourite ſongs, and the Scotiſh ſtrathſpeys the favourite muſic. Their more quiet and retired diverſions are, cards, the damboard, and backgammon.

The manners of the common people are truly ſingular, from their ſimplicity: they have generally the muſical ear; are paſſionately fond of ſongs; and, for variety, greatly excel their ſuperiors. The goodman's library oft-times conſiſts of a family Bible, Boſton's four-fold ſtate of Man, and a large ſheaf or two of ballads. In no place are there ſo many old ſongs, tales, and anecdotes preſerved by tradition; whilſt the new ones are early introduced, being ſought for with ſuch avidity, each one being fond of ſomething new to divert the ſocial circle. Many of Burns's ſongs, and M'Neil's,

were ſung and admired, long before we knew who were the authors; and with pride I relate it, many popular ſongs and tunes are indebted to the Foreſt for the firſt diſcovery of their excellence; yet we have not a noted compoſer of muſic amongſt us, our beſt modern tunes being of Perthſhire original. The ſhepherds having much ſpare time on their hands, devote it to active paſtimes. They aſſemble at certain places in the month of March, in great numbers, where ſundry prizes are exhibited for the beſt runners; and it is extremely diverting to ſee with what eagerneſs the palm is conteſted. This ſhould by no means be diſcouraged; as agility and ſwiftneſs in a ſhepherd is a principal qualification. Beſides, it is well known, that the minds of ſuch young people muſt be employed on ſomething; and ſuch paſtimes, and preparation for them, being excellently adapted for invigorating the bodily frame, ſo, the thoughts of conteſting the victory with his opponent, who perhaps has vanquiſhed him before, preſides in the ſhepherd's heart above every conſideration, bearing down thoſe affections which might prove far more immoral and debilitating. There is likewiſe one ſmall prize for him who leaps fartheſt; one for him who puts the ſtone fartheſt; and two or three for the beſt wreſtlers: all of which are well conteſted, but never with ſuch avidity, as the races are.

And laſtly, the remainder of the day is ſpent in playing at the ball. This is the moſt furious conteſt of all. Two counties, two pariſhes, or oppoſite ſides of a water, engage one another; and when one party is likely to come to the worſe, all ranks, ages, and ſexes, lend a hand. I have often ſeen the grey hairs diveſted of their covering in the midſt of the throng, whilſt the poſſeſſor was plying and exerting himſelf in the general concern; and even he, who, a few hours before, would have been expatiating on the madneſs of playing at the ball, would grow ſo anxious for the honour of the youth of his own party, that ſuch are generally the hotteſt, and apteſt to quarrel with their oppoſers, of all that are there engaged. So intent are the foreſt youths on theſe ſports, that when two or more meet on the mountains, ſome one of the a[illegible] are immediately reſorted to; nor will the vanquiſhed ceaſe, until his failing in every performance convinces him that he hath done his utmoſt in vain.

In no part of the ſouth of Scotland hath the ancient ſuperſtitions ſo long kept their ground. The fairies have but lately and reluctantly quitted its green holms and flowery glens. Some yet alive have had intercourſe with them; and the ſtories of their pranks and gambols are liſtened to with more attention, and as much faith annexed, as the goſpel according to Matthew. I have heard my own ſon relate how he had ſpoken with them twice; and that he thought he did, I as well believe, as that I am writing this letter to you. We are perſuaded that they have not power to ſtay where the Proteſtant religion is ſo firmly eſtabliſhed; but that, in the Papiſt countries, they are as thick as ever. The laſt brownie that left the ſouth of Scotland, haunted Badſbeck, in our vicinity; the tenor of whoſe lamentation for the extirpation of his tribe, on the night of his departure, is yet well known here-abouts. Gaiſts and bogles are as plenty as ever.—Not potato bogles, my dear Sir; but awful, terrible bogles, who aſſume the moſt fantaſtical ſhapes, and play the maddeſt-like actions, which the moſt whimſical ſpirits can invent. Scarcely is there a ſteading without a place near it that is not occaſionally haunted; and this hath been the

good

good effect of preventing many a night walk by the youth around, who verily believe them moſt apt to appear to people going about ſome ill end. No bad trait this, Sir, of the Foreſt bogles. I could tell you fifty ſtories of the cauſes of theſe apparitions, of their laying, and how vilely they have fooled ſome of our parſons; but if we go on at this rate, we will not reach the Highlands this ſeaſon. There are many of our old ill-looking women that are rank witches; and, had we been ſo fortunate as to have lived under James the Sixth, we ſhould ſoon have had our poors rates one half diminiſhed. The farm of Fauldſhop, and its neighbourhood, it is believed, never has been, nor never will be, without witches; and it is no uncommon thing, in this enlightened age, to hear of a ſore hunted hare running in at a door or window, and, on the poacher following in, he ſees the old wife lying quite foreſet, and hanging out her tongue with the heat: or of a wounded muir-fool or partridge flying in at the lum, and being found an old woman well peppered with ſhot.

When the goodwife's cat is ill fed, conſequently of a lean and meagre appearance, it is readily aſcribed to the witches riding on them in the night; and I have actually known very groſs incantations uſed by ſeveral families for the removal of charms, both from themſelves, and the cattle. I was mightily diverted, not long ago, with the ingenuity of a ploughman of my acquaintance. He had yoked his plough, for the firſt time that ſeaſon, in the month of February, and his accoutrements, by being three quarters of the year dormant, were much impaired, as may well be ſuppoſed. He firſt broke one thing, then another, then another; all of which he knitted or replaced with great patience. In a few minutes, craſh went the plough! Then his eyes were opened! He remembered he had quarrelled with an old woman ſome days before, and was too ſure he was bewitched, for that he had been in a very queer way ever ſince, and never knew what ailed him! He however got his plough and other utenſils repaired; but before he would venture to yoke again, travelled ſeveral miles for a whipſhaft of rown-tree, to which he tied the thong with a ſcarlet twine; then he yoked and turned up his roods as formerly, and, looking back at the end of every ſtraight furrow, he repeated, with exultation, the very old couplet,

Rown tree an' rede thread
Pits the witches to their ſpeed.

You will think this no very favourable picture of a country which is beginning to emerge into notice, where indeed there are many very ſenſible people, and where the youth, as you know, have made great proficiency in the arts and ſciences, as well as in trade and manufactures. The fact is, the foreſt being ſurrounded by high mountains, remained long excluded from any intercourſe with the more fertile diſtricts ſurrounding theſe: even to this day, the croſs roads are in a ſtate of nature. The conſequence of all this was, a later and more ſudden emergence from barbarity; and ſo uſed have the people, even of this generation, been, to hear theſe ſtories told as authentic, by the very perſons whom they were bound by nature to believe and obey, that you may as well think to argue them out of the belief of their own exiſtence, as of their authenticity.

Such was the country I left behind on reaching the Tweed; and it being at the ſpawning ſeaſon, all hands were employed about the flocks. The blooming maids aſcend-

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ed to the ewes milking evening and morning, while the weary ſhepherd was glad to catch the ſmall interval from employment, and take a nap beſide his faithful curan, on the green turf at the ſide of the bught.—I will not begin another ſheet, for fear of doubling your poſtage, but ſubſcribe myſelf,

Yours for ever,

Etterick, September 14. } A SHEPHERD.

(*To be Continued.*)

PROSPECTUS OF A NEW EDITION OF BRUCE'S TRAVELS IN ABYSSINIA.

WITH the writings of the celebrated Britiſh traveller, who firſt viſited Abyſſinia, and gave his enlightened countrymen a full view of the peculiar manners, and ſtate of ſociety in that unknown, and intereſting region, Europe is already familiar. At the diſtance of thirty years from the time in which theſe travels were accompliſhed, the public is at laſt convinced of the dangers which an Abyſſinian traveller muſt encounter; of the difficulties which he muſt ſurmount; and of the abilities, which are neceſſary to enſure ſucceſs to his undertaking. Amongſt the various circumſtances that illuſtrate this obſervation, it is none of the leaſt remarkable, that no European has as yet been able to reach the ſcene of Mr Bruce's obſervations, either to improve, confirm, or refute his narrative. Subſequent travellers have ſhrunk from a trial, which ſeems to be delayed until time ſhall, perhaps, have made it impoſſible to aſcertain the full extent of his adventures. They have left him alone to be checked only by his own account, and the original materials that remain from its compoſition. Abſtracting from the information which he has furniſhed on the ſubject, the coy fountains of the *Neel el Abiad*, are as unknown to every other traveller, as thoſe of the river *Abiad*; had it not been for the efforts of his adventurous ſpirit, they had both remained in that obſcurity in which they had been loſt for ages, and the ſources at Geeſh had been equally expoſed to vague geographical conjecture, with thoſe which are ſaid to deſcend from the *Mountains* of the *Moon*.

CONFIRMATION has, however, ſlowly and gradually arrived in Europe, of many important and characteriſtic facts, which a few of the Britiſh Public, or rather the ignorance of party, ventured at firſt to call in queſtion. The ſavage deformity of barbarous manners has been delineated by other travellers; the reports of various original writers have been compared, and examined; the ferocious picture given by Mr Bruce has been allowed to poſſeſs the features of truth, and the flattering deſcriptions of a Rouſſeau are no longer regarded. It now appears, with all the certainty which report can beſtow, that Mr Bruce, contrary to the general practice, did not wander over Abyſſinia under the form of a mendicant, but lived in ſplendour at the court of that kingdom, aſſociated with the firſt nobility, was promoted by its ſovereign to the government of a pro-

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vince, and celebrated for his perſonal addreſs, and for feats of ſkill and courage, both in the metropolis and frontiers. The name of *Jagoube* is ſtill remembered in a rude nation where the deeds of the hero always ſurvive the memory of every other qualification, and where, perhaps, few of thoſe diſtinguiſhed perſons who loved and honoured him, remain alive to commemorate his ſtory.

On a candid and moderate eſtimate of the different accompliſhments which enabled Mr Bruce to execute his journey to the ſources of the Nile, of the unequalled dangers which he ſurmounted, and of the aſtoniſhing quantity of valuable knowledge which he collected in the eaſt, it is no exaggeration to affirm, that of all the travellers who have ever explored the ſurface of the globe, no ſingle individual, with the ſame aſſiſtance, has ever diſcovered, or effected ſo much. Thoſe who ſtill remember the majeſtic figure, the commanding preſence, and the princely form of the Abyſſinian traveller, are beſt able to compare his perſonal endowments with thoſe of other men who have ſerved the world in a ſimilar capacity; but when we reflect, that he penetrated not into India or Arabia, or even into the ſouth of Africa, countries of themſelves ſufficiently dangerous to explore; but that he entered a region full of Mooriſh bigotry, unknown in its general outline, inacceſſible to Europeans for more than half a century before, and ever ſince; that he raiſed himſelf to the dignity and honours of a native chief; revived the credit of Europe, where it had been contemptible for ages, and during nearly three years paſſed in comparative ſafety through its various provinces, ſo as to aſcertain the relative geography of places, obſerve the motions of the celeſtial bodies, and the phenomena of the heavens, in a tropical climate, as celebrated for its effects on the face of nature, as obſcure in its hiſtory; and, at the ſame time, delineate the numerous volumes of natural productions, which remain to teſtify his unceaſing induſtry; in ſpite of every prejudice, it may clearly be predicted, that for many years to come, Europe ſhall not boaſt of ſuch a traveller. Others may attempt the ſame courſe with more ſcientific ſkill in arranging the various productions of the globe; their deſcriptions may be more Linnean; their volumes more elaborate; but if only one, of five, Europeans ſurvived the climate of Arabia, how many will be requiſite to ſurvey the Nubian deſerts!

Mr Bruce returned from Abyſſinia by a route in which the natives of the country themſelves often periſh. His journals, rich with geographical, hiſtorical, and miſcellaneous information, though all that could reaſonably be expected from a traveller, were not the only preſent he made to his country. He brought into Britain about ſeventy volumes of Arabic MSS; a complete copy, in many large quartos, of all the books of the Old and New Teſtament, in the language of the country he had viſited, familiar to himſelf, though, perhaps, not underſtood, even at preſent, by many perſons in this literary iſland. With theſe he imported ſeveral copies of the celebrated book of Enoch, a Gnoſtic volume, quoted by an Apoſtle, but, perhaps, never ſeen before by any learned European. Not to mention extenſive ſpecimens of ſeven Abyſſinian languages, procured by his own care, the Synaxar, or lives of the Abyſſinian ſaints, the Conſtitutions of the Apoſtles, a MS. on Papyrus, in the Sahidic dialect of Egypt, all of which are but imperfectly known in the literary

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ary world; the Chronicle of Axum, and the Abyſſinian Annals, which were preſented to Mr Bruce by men of the firſt rank in the nation, enabled him to give the public an original hiſtory of that remote country, whoſe geographical and moral ſtate he had been deſtined to explore. His collection of drawings of natural hiſtory, and ruined architecture, objects which had attracted much attention during the whole of his reſidence in foreign countries, was ſo copious, accurate, and magnificent, as to aſtoniſh the world at the extent of his labours and ingenuity.

It is not the end of this curſory view to diſplay, by reaſoning, the merits of Mr Bruce. Theſe, after prejudice has been ſacrificed at his tomb, will, by their own ſtrength, appear in their native character. A bare, unadorned ſtatement of the benefits which his labours have already conferred on various departments of ſcience, were ſufficient to vindicate his conſcious right to gratitude from poſterity; but it is much to be lamented, that he did not live to exhibit to the world the fruits of his long induſtry and reſearch, in the manner which they deſerved, and to finiſh, amidſt the accumulating ſplendour of fame, thoſe works the authenticity of which time has been gradually eſtabliſhing, to the confuſion of his enemies.

Mr Bruce, on arriving in Europe, found that his diſcoveries were eſtimated with much ingratitude. He perceived himſelf inadequate to the publication of his ſplendid collection of ancient architecture, and natural hiſtory, from various circumſtances of which he certainly might not be aware, when preparing it, particularly the expence of engraving, which no private fortune was able prudently to bear. Whether he expected aſſiſtance from that nation, for the inſtruction of which he had ſo often expoſed his life, is exceedingly doubtful: certain it is, however, that the works of very reſpectable travellers have been publiſhed by the governments of various European countries, much to their credit and honour. After a delay of ſeveral years, occaſioned by circumſtances with which all his friends were fully acquainted, he publiſhed the five volumes of his travels in Abyſſinia. In theſe he was obliged to omit his prior diſcoveries in Barbary, becauſe the magnificent plates, neceſſary for that part of the work, would have enhanced the ſize and expence of the whole to an uncommon degree; and of the journals which naturally required to be publiſhed ſeparately, he choſe the moſt important, in point of diſcovery and fame.

In the narrative of his journey through this unexplored African monarchy, accurately deſcribed before by no geographer, and chronicled by no hiſtorian, he thought himſelf bound to interſperſe ſeveral diſſertations on its ancient hiſtory, and on other topics which had formerly engaged the attention of the greateſt monarchs and philoſophers, but which are ſtill conſiderably involved in the profound obſcurity which darkens the parent country of ancient wiſdom. If, in theſe diſcuſſions, he was not always ſucceſsful, his plan is at leaſt free from thoſe objections to which a traveller would be liable, in writing an account of his journey through any country, whoſe ancient ſtate is already known. In Egypt and Abyſſinia, thoſe digreſſions are naturally to be expected, from every philoſophic obſerver; their propriety is conſtituted by the imperfect knowledge we poſſeſs of theſe countries; and the deſign of Mr Bruce was to furniſh a complete account of thoſe regions which he was amongſt the firſt to delineate.

Towards the end of the year 1795,

1793, he began to reviſe his work for a ſecond edition. Many typographical and grammatical errors with which the firſt had been deformed, from cauſes unneceſſary to be mentioned here, were corrected; and ſuch emendations and additions were made, under his own care, as promiſed evident improvement in every part of the publication. In the geographical poſitions, both on the maps, and in the text, ſuch miſtakes had been committed, as in fact conſiderably diminiſhed the credit of that part of the work. As the book was now to be publiſhed in the octavo form, a conſiderable number of plates were prepared for that purpoſe, and ſeveral new ones were about to be engraved. All theſe labours were interrupted at once, by the ſudden death of the Author, in the ſpring of the year 1794.

Messrs Manners & Miller, and Mr Conſtable, Bookſellers in Edinburgh, the purchaſers of the copyright, from the preſent Mr Bruce of Kinnaird, the author's ſon, having full liberty of acceſs to the repoſitories of this celebrated traveller, are now enabled to lay before the public a view of the plan on which the new edition will be conducted. The whole text of the firſt edition will be given in the ſtate in which it now ſtands in the author's corrected copy, with thoſe emendations and additions by himſelf, which muſt render it the only ſtandard of the work in future. As editors of a poſthumous work of ſuch reputation, they muſt beg leave to aſſure the Public, that any attempt of theirs to mangle, or change the form of the text, beyond the bounds preſcribed by theſe corrections, with the view of gratifying any particular claſs of readers, would be a poſitive infringement of the will of the Author; and would diſcredit ſo much the authority of a more refined arrangement, that they could not expect their edition to be eſteemed, or even read, by any man of letters. The additions, however, which they are enabled to draw from the original journals of Mr Bruce, will not only illuſtrate, in a high degree, many parts of the printed work, but even beſtow new evidence and light on the whole of the narrative. They flatter themſelves, that the Author, and the work itſelf, will be better known to the public in general, by the manner in which every circumſtance will be examined; as the original letters, and a variety of facts which they have in their power to produce, will more fully delineate the character of the one, while the authentic and minute additions from the journals, will eſtabliſh, or enlarge the truth of the other.

The new edition will be comprehended in ſeven volumes octavo, with a volume of plates in the quarto form, for the obvious convenience of a larger ſcale. The *firſt* volume will contain a life of Mr Bruce, from original papers preſerved in the family; from a written memoir by himſelf; and a very large maſs of literary and miſcellaneous correſpondence, in the Engliſh, French, Italian, and Portugueſe languages, from which will be ſelected, and annexed to the life, all thoſe curious and important papers, which are neceſſary to authenticate any part of that narrative; alſo copious ſpecimens of the original journal, written immediately after viſiting the ſources of the Nile, with copies, and tranſlations, from the Turkiſh, Arabic, and modern Greek, of firmans, letters, and other writings, by perſons of diſtinction, in favour of the Abyſſinian traveller.

THE *ſecond* volume will contain the Author's introduction to the firſt edition, with references to the account in the volume preceding; the narrative of the voyage till his arrival at Maſuah, and the introductory part of the ancient hiſtory of Ethiopia; enlarged with a complete and accurate view of the Ethiopic MSS, brought from Abyſſinia by Mr Bruce, with an abſtract of their contents, and the information they afford relative to that country. The ſingular book of Enoch will be examined in this place. This volume, as well as the ſucceeding ones, will be enriched with ſome appropriate notes from former, or ſubſequent travellers, enenlivening the ſubject, or confirming the facts.

THE *third* volume will comprehend the remainder of the Abyſſinian hiſtory down to the period of the Author's entrance into Habbeſh. This hiſtorical epiſode, which ſome have cenſured as injurious to the unity of the traveller's own narrative, will ſcarcely be reckoned unintereſting by thoſe who reflect, that it is drawn from MSS. never before tranſlated, or known in Europe; that it is richly interſperſed with views of Abyſſinian cuſtoms and manners, and almoſt abſolutely neceſſary to introduce the reader to thoſe perſons who make a figure in the active part of the ſtory. But if all theſe things ſhould ſtill be conſidered of inferior value, by thoſe who are careleſs about African affairs, let it not be forgotten, that it contains the hiſtory of a Chriſtian nation, acting under *infallible* authority, defeated by the very means through which it hoped for complete ſucceſs, propagating, either directly or indirectly, bigotry, immorality, and Mahometaniſm, inſtead of the goſpel; and, perhaps, cloſing, by its vices, the barriers of the only African kingdom, where Chriſtianity is now profeſſed againſt Europeans for ever.

THE *fourth* volume will contain the tranſactions of Mr Bruce's journey, from the time of his entrance into the country by Maſuah, till his arrival at the ſources of the Nile; and the fifth, the remainder of that journey, till his arrival in England. The ſeries of the narrative will all along be confirmed from the original journals; and the various topics which ſeem worthy of obſervation, will be examined or illuſtrated. A *volume* of finiſhed drawings, containing the portraits of the royal family, and courtiers of Gondar, and of many of the natives of the regions through which Mr Bruce travelled, was, by ſome accident, unfortunately loſt in his own life-time. The original ſketches are, however, preſerved, though many of them without names. From theſe, though certainly much inferior to the finiſhed drawings, will be given portraits of Ozoro Eſther, Teela Mariam, Woodage Afahel, and ſeveral other diſtinguiſhed Abyſſinians.

THE *ſixth* and *ſeventh* volumes will contain the ſpecimens of natural hiſtory already given, and ſuch ſelected additions as the expence of a very extenſive work will allow the publiſhers to make. The whole of the Natural Hiſtory would, by itſelf, form one of the moſt magnificent works which has ever been publiſhed, and ſuch as it were entirely improper to annex to any volumes of Travels. An accurate and ſcientific catalogue of the various productions of natural hiſtory, of which Mr Bruce poſſeſſed drawings, will be given, with as perfect a deſcription of the ſeveral articles, as the written accounts and drawings will furniſh.

A SMALL MS. diſſertation on Syrian medals will precede a catalogue of medals, brought by Mr Bruce from the Eaſt; and the laſt volume will be completed by an account of

of the Arabic MSS. in the Brucean collection at Kinnaird. Extracts from theſe will occaſionally be given in the courſe of the work, when illuſtrative of the ſubject, but the contents of the whole will be exhibited in order, as being evidently too much connected with the Oriental literature of this country, to be paſſed over in ſilence.

The aſtronomical and meteorological obſervations of Mr Bruce will be carefully given in their proper places, from the original journals. The former are exceedingly numerous, and ſo eſſential to the geographical ſurvey made by Mr Bruce, as to deſerve every attention; the latter are very copious; and, in a tropical region, whoſe inundating rains ſupport Nature, in one of the moſt celebrated countries in the world, and the phænomena of whoſe winds muſt conſiderably eſtabliſh or refute any exiſting theory on that ſubject, can never be marked with ſuperfluous accuracy. A journal of the weather, &c. kept at Cairo by a friend of Mr Bruce, during one of the ſeaſons Mr Bruce was at Gondar, enables us to compare the meteorology of Egypt and Abyſſinia for a given period.

The maps of the printed edition will be re-engraved from copies corrected by the author, and afterwards minutely compared with the original plans made in the Eaſt; ſeveral new ones, conſtructed by Mr Bruce, for an improved edition, will alſo be inſerted.

Such is the imperfect ſketch of a work, which will ſoon be ſubmitted to the intelligent and literary world. The publiſhers are fully conſcious how much inferior the exertions of any editor muſt always be to thoſe of the author himſelf. Yet, from the nature of the work, and the high regard which they are anxious to preſerve for the memory of a man who did honour to his country, by exploring a diſtant and unknown portion of the globe, and by returning through many dangers loaden with ſuch literary treaſures as no European traveller could ever boaſt of, they indulge a ſuitable hope, that the humble toil of reading and arranging the materials which he has left behind him, and conducting through the preſs with diligence and accuracy the poſthumous edition of his works, will be received favourably by that part of the public for which only, to uſe his own words, he thought it "worth while to travel or to write."

Edinburgh, Oct. 1802.

ON CONTRACTIONS IN LANGUAGE.

THE abbreviation of long words, by contracting the vowels, or omitting particular conſonants, is an obvious fact in the hiſtory of all languages. Moſt grammarians take notice of this, when the effects of it are ſo great as to create a difficulty in acquiring any particular language; but they ſeem to confine themſelves to limited remarks, and detached obſervations. In the Greek, where contraction is ſo prevalent, a ſeries of obſervations on the ſubject was firſt arranged by Profeſſor Moore, with a degree of perſpicuity to which former grammarians had not attained. Still, however, the laws of the voice, and that proceſs by which particular articulations and ſounds gradually coaleſce, or deſtroy one another, are imperfectly underſtood. The method of *induction* has not as yet been properly applied to this part of grammar; which, if once philoſophically done, would greatly aſſiſt

the ſtudent in methodiſing the art of acquiring cognate dialects, and clearing the path of ſcience. May we expect this from any of the enlightened philologiſts of the preſent day; or is the ſubject, upon the whole, unworthy of their attention?

C.

For the Scots Magazine.

THE WANDERER.—No. III.

It's hardly in a body's power,
To keep at times frae being four,
To ſee how things are ſhar'd;
How beſt o' chiels are whiles in want,
While coofs on countleſs thouſands rant,
And ken na how to wair't. BURNS.

NOTHING is more common with the generality of mankind, than to envy the proſperity of their neighbours. We are eager to count every advantage which they enjoy, and often think that fortune ſhares her gifts with more liberality to our companions than to us.

WHATEVER trouble we are at in numbering their advantages, we ſeldom think of the loſſes they ſuffer, the difficulties they encounter, or the dangers to which they are expoſed.

HE who thinks that he has taken the wrong road to preferment, or that his companions will ſooner gain the end at which he aims, will ſeldom liſten to the voice of reaſon, until he is taught, by fatal experience, that the paths of life, in which they walk, are equally illuſive. Wherever we ſuffer diſappointments in our expectations, fancy is at no loſs to point out a way where theſe would have been avoided, and where the end which we had in view would have been fully attained.

HOWEVER deſpicable, or however mean, the character of the envious may be, the Wanderer cannot ſay he has at all times been perfectly free from it. One day during the races this ſeaſon, as I was trudging down Leith Walk on foot, I could not help envying every ſpanking beau as he gallopped by me on horſeback; and could not help thinking, that were I in his ſituation, I would be much happier. In order to gratify this fooliſh deſire, I hired a horſe, and went down next day. I chanced to get one with rather too much ſpirit for one ſo little accuſtomed to ride as I am, and therefore rode ſlowly until I reached the ſands. I was there about an hour before the race ſtarted, and during that time rode about from one place to another. Here I had an opportunity of hearing ſeveral ingenious diſputes upon the merit of the horſes that were about to run. Many pretended ſo much knowledge of theſe animals, as clearly to determine, at firſt ſight, which of them was to be victorious. Some fixed upon one as the certain conqueror, while others equally penetrating, and no leſs poſitive in their opinions, fixed upon another.

THESE diſputes were often maintained with ſo much heat, and carried to ſuch heights, as either to terminate by ſome aſperſions, from one party, upon the want of diſcernment in the other, or by a wager of ſomething very conſiderable. I could not help reflecting upon the folly of thoſe men who could either quarrel, or run the riſk of loſing a conſiderable

conſiderable part of their property, merely to ſupport a prematurely formed opinion, about a matter in which they were only to be intereſted for a few minutes.

THE time in which theſe diſputes were to be determined, was now come. The riders were mounted, and people flocked from all quarters to the ſtarting-poſt. I happened to get near the inſide of the crowd; but my horſe, not being accuſtomed to the ſound of muſic, as ſoon as the ſtarting drum gave the firſt beat, took fright, and threw me from my ſeat, headlong upon the ſands. Several gentlemen were kind enough to endeavour to get hold of the animal again, but none of them were ſucceſsful; for he ſoon found his way off the ſands, and came to Edinburgh. Although I fell in the midſt of an innumerable crowd of horſes, yet I had the good fortune to paſs unhurt by any of them; but my hat and wig, which were both toſſed off by the fall, were not ſo fortunate. One of the horſes had the impudence to ſet his foot in the inſide of my wig, and excepting the curl that hangs over my left ear, it was all beſmeared over with ſand and water. After I had got up, and adjuſted matters as well as I could, I thought it proper to make the beſt of my way home, as my appearance expoſed my misfortunes to every ſpectator. Such was the reward of my envy, and the fruit of my ill placed expectations. I ſoon began to reflect upon the ſcene that had juſt happened, and the dangers to which my folly had expoſed me.

HAPPY would it be for many of the ſons of ambition, were their firſt deviation from the path of duty puniſhed in a ſimilar manner; for when ſucceſs attends their firſt attempts at romantic greatneſs, they are hurried on by vanity, to engage in ſcenes equally fooliſh, until they are at laſt involved in ſhame, if not entire ruin *. Let it ever be remembered, that the ſure foundation of honour is to preſerve an unblemiſhed reputation in the ſituation of life in which we are placed; and that the true road to proſperity is the practice of induſtry and economy.

Edinburgh,
Auguſt 1802. } H. S.

* It would be good for us that, inſtead of envying thoſe honours and qualities which others poſſeſs, we would think of the means by which they acquired them.

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

ON THE CHOICE OF SUBJECTS FOR ENGRAVINGS.

SIR,

DURING the prevalence of the preſent faſhionable mania for highly ornamented publications, when a volume of poetry is hardly fit to appear in the world without a certain number of engravings to ſet off its merits, it is of ſome importance that theſe decorations ſhould be executed in ſuch a manner as to anſwer the purpoſes for which they are

are intended. I profeſs myſelf no enemy, on the whole, to ornamental deſigns, (though by enhancing the price of books, they certainly tend to diminiſh the enjoyments of thoſe, who would be willing to read them for their own ſakes), for this reaſon, that many are allured by them to purchaſe works, which they probably would never have looked into, had not the ſplendour of an elegant frontiſpiece firſt caught their attention. Were proper care taken to ſuit them to the tone of the compoſition, they might indeed be made to ſerve a much higher purpoſe, by aſſiſting the deſcriptive powers of the poet, and enforcing the impreſſions which he wiſhes to communicate. As engravings are generally executed, however, this object is very ſeldom attained. Inſtead of aſſiſting the writer, it much oftener happens that they have a contrary effect, and do him conſiderable injury, by checking the current of the reader's emotions, and introducing feelings of diſguſt into his mind, which operate unconſciouſly during the peruſal, and influence, in ſome degree, his opinion of the performance. On opening a volume with engravings, we uſually find, that the painter has either given us a group of inſipid figures, which create no intereſt, and excite no emotions of any kind; or has made choice of ſubjects ſo far above his powers, that the meek ſublimity of his pencil only excites a ſmile. Poetry delights in ſupernatural beings, and in allegorical perſonifications of abſtract ideas; ſubjects which painters of ordinary abilities are very apt to undertake, though the higheſt powers are ſcarcely competent to do them juſtice; and thus bring contempt both on their own art, and on that of the engraver, however well the latter may have acquitted himſelf in his own department.

It would probably tend in a great meaſure to remove this evil, if authors would themſelves aſſume the taſk of ſelecting ſubjects for the deſigns that are to accompany their works; inſtead of leaving it often to an illiterate artiſt, or perhaps to the bookſeller by whom that artiſt is employed. Nor is it neceſſary for this purpoſe to poſſeſs a technical knowledge of painting. In reſpect to the choice of a ſubject, and whatever is beyond the more mechanical execution, a man of general taſte, though ignorant of painting, will be a better judge than even an ingenious artiſt, whoſe mind has not been cultivated on an enlarged ſcale. This attention on the part of authors would at leaſt prevent many abſurdities, ariſing from endeavours to repreſent to the eye thoſe ideal creations of the poet, which derive all their effect on the imagination, from the awful obſcurity in which they are involved, and are therefore improper ſubjects for painting, which requires clear lines and definite conceptions. For example, what painter, who knows the limits of his art, would attempt a repreſentation of Milton's death?

——"*Black it ſtood as night,*
Fierce as ten furies, terrible as hell.
And ſhook a dreadful dart; *what ſeem'd his head,*
The *likeneſs* of a kingly crown had on!"

Yet this has been done in an elegant edition of Paradiſe Loſt, lately publiſhed at London, and by an artiſt of conſiderable celebrity. And ſuch a figure! Hogarth himſelf never drew any thing more perfectly ludicrous. What injury is not done to the reader who feels the ſublimity of this great poet, by interrupting his attention with ſuch unworthy objects, and forcing his mind to relinquiſh its exquiſite elevation, for the

the vulgar pleaſure of laughing at a caricature?

An equally glaring example of the ſame impropriety may be obſerved in the firſt edition of Mr Campbell's Pleaſures of Hope. The poet, in alluding to a principal article of the Hindoo mythology, has the following noble lines:

"He comes! dread Brama ſhakes the ſunleſs ſky!
With marm'ring wrath, and thunders from on high!
Heaven's fiery horſe, beneath his warrior form,
Paws the light clouds, and gallops on the ſtorm!
Wide waves his flick'ring ſword; his bright arms glow
Like ſummer ſuns, and light the world below!
Earth, and her trembling iſles, in Ocean's bed
Are ſhook; and nature rocks beneath his tread!"

Of this ſublime and terrific being, the engraver has been bold enough to attempt a repreſentation; and what has he given us? A great brawny fellow on horſeback, with a face of vulgar ferocity, flourithing a ſabre over his head; whom, if it were not for the clouds under his horſe's feet, (and theſe may very well paſs for clouds of duſt), we might naturally take for a German huſſar going through the ſword-exercite! Is it poſſible to conceive a ſtronger inſtance of the bathos, than ſuch a figure, ſucceeding ſuch verſes?

To check the immoderate fondneſs of painters for imaginary beings, it ought to be preſſed on their recollection, that theſe are not only the moſt difficult ſubjects, but the leaſt adapted to diſplay the power of their art. That our own ſpecies intereſts us moſt ſtrongly in every kind of repreſentation, is a principle almoſt too obvious to be mentioned. The great maſters in the art have all felt this; and the moſt celebrated paintings are thoſe of which the ſubjects are taken from real hiſtory. The effect of a picture of this kind is the greater, that its operation is gradual, and conſiſts chiefly in exciting the imagination of the ſpectator. We begin with ſympathizing in the various paſſions exhibited by the different actors in the ſcene, the received relation of which, to the principal ſubject, gives that unity to our feelings, which exiſts in the piece itſelf: a train of correſponding ideas immediately ariſes in the mind, which proceeds, of its own accord, by the power of aſſociation, kindling with progreſſive enthuſiaſm, till at length, as at a dramatic ſpectacle, the illuſion takes entire poſſeſſion of the imagination, and we receive the full communication of the artiſt's feelings. The impreſſion effected in this manner, we are accuſtomed to aſcribe to the power of painting, though it is, in a great meaſure, produced by the action of our own minds; and, with juſtice, becauſe the mental excitement on which it depends, could neither have originated without the picture, nor ſubſiſted itſelf without being fed with continual acceſſions from it, as the ſource.—I venture theſe remarks, with a view to ſhow, that what the mind derives from the painter, is chiefly *hints*, to give motion and direction to its own thoughts; and hence, that even a very ordinary performance may have a conſiderable effect on the feelings, provided the ſubject be intereſting, and there be no glaring faults to check imagination. Thus the engraving accompanying theſe verſes of Mr Campbell, in the edition of the Pleaſures of Hope above mentioned,

"And ſuch thy ſtrength, inſpiring aid, that bore
The hardy Byron to his native ſhore," &c.

Rude

Rude as it is, is not without its intereſt; though this certainly is greatly weakened by the tawdry figure of Hope, which the painter, according to the prevailing taſte, has introduced in the piece.

As it may ſeem invidious to notice only occaſions of cenſure, I ſhall mention two inſtances, among ſeveral that occur to me, in which the happy effects of that ſimplicity of taſte, in the choice of ſubjects for engravings, which I am deſirous of recommending, appear to me ſtrikingly exemplified. One of them is the frontiſpiece to Mr Giſborne's "Poems, Sacred and Moral," in which a murderer is repreſented, in the inſtant after the perpetration of his crime, preſſing with his foot the dead body, and, in an attitude of frantic defiance, fixing his "iron eyes" on heaven, to which his attention is drawn by a flaſh of lightning, ſeen to iſſue from a cloud. It is, perhaps, difficult to ſay, whether this picture, or the beautiful poem which it illuſtrates, ranks higheſt in the general ſcale of art; or which of them produces the deepeſt moral impreſſion on the reader. The other inſtance, is an engraving in Cooke's edition of Thomſon, a book in the hands of almoſt every perſon; the ſubject of which is taken from the pathetic deſcription of a man periſhing in the ſnow. I never read the paſſage juſt mentioned, without involuntarily reſting my eye on this little piece, and feeling the emotions raiſed by the poet, heightened beyond what mere language could either excite, or expreſs. It will be admitted by thoſe who agree with me, as to the merit of theſe two deſigns, that the arts of the painter and the engraver, when thus applied, may become powerful auxiliaries to poetry, and are worthy to co-operate with it in the great purpoſe of promoting moral improvement, through the efficacious medium of taſte and imagination. I ſhall however be ſatisfied with the effect of my obſervations, if they contribute in the ſmalleſt degree to induce authors to pay ſome attention to the deſigns which accompany their works, by convincing them, that according as theſe are well or ill executed, they are capable of aſſiſting, or of counteracting the effect of their compoſitions.

I am, SIR,

Your's, &c.

To the Editor of the Scots Magazine.

ON THE LATE ROBBERIES.

SIR,

HAPPENING the other day to call at the houſe of a friend, I was introduced to a party who were all in very good humour. I began to congratulate myſelf on being ſo fortunate as to meet with ſuch agreeable company. The light of day however was now beginning to give place to the ſhades of night, when one of the ladies, who were preſent, remarked, that it was now extremely dangerous to be out in the evening. This gave a complete turn to the converſation, and fixed it upon the robberies and aſſaults which had lately taken place. A gloom over-

ſpread

ſpread the company — reflections were thrown out upon the negligence of the magiſtrates, and the defect of the police—our entertainment was at an end—and all began to prepare for their reſpective homes.

Upon returning to my chamber, I could not help meditating a little upon a ſubject ſo important and alarming, and endeavouring to account for it upon rational principles. The cauſe that is generally aſſigned for the evil, is the diſbanding of the military, and thus throwing looſe upon the world a great number of men unaccuſtomed to regular induſtry. Here the change is rapid, and it requires ſome time before ſituations can be found ſuitable to the genius and qualifications of each. And many of them indeed, from a long habit of idleneſs, have contracted an averſion to every occupation whatever. They hang as a dead weight upon ſociety, *nati conſumere fruges*; nay, they are ſome times led to adopt the moſt unjuſtifiable methods for procuring ſubſiſtence.

In this manner, a pretty plauſible account may be given of the diſorders which prevail about the the metropolis. But that this is not the only or even the chief cauſe, will appear from this circumſtance, that of thoſe who have been yet detected as the authors of theſe outrages, the greater part have been apprentices, journeymen, and perſons of a ſimilar deſcription, who did not belong either to the army or the navy. The effect therefore muſt be traced to ſome other cauſe.

Our attention is next called to the police. We hear almoſt every accident that takes place, aſcribed to the negligence and careleſſneſs of thoſe who are entruſted with the management of the city. We are told that if the magiſtrates were ſufficiently active in the diſcharge of their duty, if they were careful to eſtabliſh proper guards through the different parts of the city, and if they uſed proper diligence to detect and puniſh delinquents, no ſuch outrages would be committed.

That the efforts of the magiſtrates may go a great way in checking licentiouſneſs, is unqueſtionable, ſtill, however, theſe efforts are limited, and of themſelves altogether incapable of producing uniform order and tranquillity. Acts of violence may at times burſt out, and elude the vigilance of the ſtricteſt diſcipline. Hardened wickedneſs may practice its arts in ſecret, and defy the vengeance of the beſt regulated government.

Beſides, it muſt be remembered that the police of a city ought always to be regulated by the manners of the citizens, becauſe, were men all virtuous and good, there would be no need of a police, every one without compulſion would regulate his conduct with a view to the public good. Conſequently, if a city like Edinburgh, that hath been long diſtinguiſhed for tranquillity and good order, ſhould ſuddenly change and become a fruitful ſeminary of wickedneſs, ſome time will be requiſite before adminiſtration can eſtabliſh a proper plan for curbing and reſtraining the evil.

But ſuppoſe a proper plan of diſcipline were formed, it might go a great way to prevent external violence, but could have very little effect on the morals of the people; and wherever the morals are corrupted, there licentiouſneſs and diſorder muſt prevail.

The concluſion I would draw from theſe remarks is this, That the great and chief cauſe of the late robberies and aſſaults is a diſſoluteneſs of manners, and a want of principle, evils which ſeem to be rapidly increaſing among the lower orders. It is a painful reflection, that

that in the progreſs of ſociety, corruption very generally keeps pace with civilization.

When a nation hath once arrived at opulence and ſplendor, it hath hitherto univerſally brought along with it a train of evils, which, by by a ſlow and ſecret operation, undermine the foundation of its glory. The Romans were the ſlaves of their paſſions before they ſubmitted to the powers of their barbarous invaders. The Greeks were corrupted by wealth, and they received the Macedonian yoke. Our nation is at preſent flouriſhing in opulence and power: our naval glory hath filled the world; and our commerce is bounded by thoſe limits only which nature and barbariſm oppoſe to the progreſs of man. But this very circumſtance, again, by increaſing our wealth, contributes its part in producing diſorder and licentiouſneſs at home. Penury and labour check the preſumption of the ignorant and the giddy, and ſecure in the community that tranquility, which can with difficulty be maintained in proſperous and flouriſhing times.

The liberty of the preſs, too, is an advantage which Britons have ever cheriſhed with the fondeſt pride, as the great preſervation of liberty, the firmeſt bulwark againſt uſurpation and tyranny. But even this advantage, great as it is, carries along with it a poiſon, which conſumes every thing with which it comes in contact. The preſs, it cannot be denied, teems with productions the moſt licentious and profane. Theſe are greedily ſwallowed by the ignorant and unwary, and produce in the conduct their natural effects. Nay, perſons *, have ariſen, who under the name of philoſophers, have attempted to diſſolve the moſt ſacred ties, by which ſociety is held together, and to unhinge the ſyſtem of civil government. They have deluded the ignorant with imaginary bleſſings, and made them neglect thoſe, which it was in their power to obtain. The opinions of theſe projectors, when adorned with all the ornaments of a flowing though inflated ſtile, enter deep into the ſyſtem of morals, and tend gradually to produce a laxity of principle, and irregularity of conduct.

In order to guard againſt all theſe dangers, the principles of religion ought to take an early and firm hold of the mind. It is in vain to think of ſecuring, by any other means, laſting tranquillity and happineſs. For without religious principles, the mind is eaſily thrown off its guard: ſmall and ſecret vices are cheriſhed without reſtraint. Theſe pave the way to greater: private and public rights become alike diſregarded, and violence and diſorder prevail. But when education is built upon the foundation of religion, it acquires a conſiſtency, which enables it to ſtand firm and unſhaken amidſt the fury of the ſtorms and the violence of the tempeſts with which human life is agitated. The ſocial and domeſtic virtues ſpring up as in their proper ſoil, and reflect a luſtre upon the character to which they belong. Indeed, the principles of religion and morality are ſo intimately connected, that if the former be wanting, the latter can never be found in a ſtate of purity.

From theſe obſervations it will appear, that the education of youth is a matter of no ſmall importance. Upon their conduct, the proſperity and happineſs of their country will ſoon depend. Soon will it depend upon their efforts, whether Britain ſhall riſe or ſink in the ſcale of improvement.

* Godwin, Condorcet, and others, whoſe writings, by being more acceſſible, are more dangerous to the lower orders.

ment. While, therefore, every endeavour is uſed to prepare them for thoſe ſtations in life which they are intended to fill, let it never be forgotten, that ſucceſs will, in a great meaſure, depend upon the care that hath been taken to ſeaſon their tender minds with the principles of religion and virtue. If the higher ranks begin this plan of improvement, the lower will follow with greater facility, becauſe they are always prone to imitate their ſuperiors. Theſe reflections ſuggeſted themſelves to me, from the circumſtance I have already mentioned; and if they ſhould lead any of your correſpondents to give a proper attention to them, my deſign in ſending you this, will be fully anſwered.

A CONSTANT READER.

LITERARY EXTRACTS

AND

NOTICES.

NATURAL HISTORY OF CAFFRARIA.

By Dr Vanderkemp.

Continued from page 755.

Manners. THE man ſpends his life in idleneſs: his only employment is to go to war, to hunt, and to milk the cows. The woman's work is to build houſes, make kraals, utenſils, clothes, to till the ground, to cut wood, &c.

Their circumciſion is performed on boys of about twelve or fourteen years old, and is accompanied with ceremonies, which appear emblematical of a total renewal of the perſon. Afterward, he is painted white all over the body, he is driven into a river, and there waſhed clean; his old garments, &c. are all thrown away, and new ones given him.

Clothing. The Caffre never puts on clothes for the ſake of decency; and, therefore, if the cold does not compel him to cover his body, he goes naked. Their heads are always uncovered, but ornamented, either with a chain of hemiſpherical braſs or copper grains, of about one-fourth of an inch diameter, in the form of a diadem; or of a ribbon an inch broad, compoſed of ſmall beads, of two or three different colours, put cloſe together. Sometimes they wear both theſe diadems. From their arms they ſuſpend a little chain of beads, ſometimes three or four inches long; or two or three buttons; or a metal wire contorted in divers manners, &c.

Round their left arm, they put ſeveral rings of ivory (from two to ten) above the elbow. On ſome who wore theſe rings from their youth, they are ſo tight, that they cannot get them off again; and I have ſeveral times been obliged to file them off, to deliver the wearers from the horrid ſwelling and inflammation which was produced by the preſſure. Commonly theſe rings are three-fourths of an inch broad; and five of them are ſold for a cow. They are an ornament peculiar to the ſubjects of Geika.

On the right arm, juſt above the elbow, they tie five or ſix teeth of a ti-

ger, ſtanding upright, and pointing backwards. On the crown of the head ſtands a bunch of the hairs of a jackal, faſtened into a handle of braſs. Round the wriſt of both arms, rings of various metals are bent: they are thin, and being flexible, are put on and taken off at pleaſure.

Their loins are encircled with a ſingle ſtring of iron or copper beads, which are cylindrical about one-third of an inch, and one-eighth high. They are very fond of ſtrings of beads, or of metallic chains, hanging round the neck; the loweſt of which hang down to the ſtomach.

Round the left leg, juſt below the knee, they tie a fillet, from which a piece of an ox's tail, of about a foot long, hangs down on the front. The right is ſometimes adorned with a kind of garter, compoſed of very ſmall yellow glaſs beads, which give it the appearance of gold lace.

To protect themſelves againſt the cold, they wear a long robe or cloak, which hangs down from behind to the ground. This is commonly made of cow's ſkins, ſo prepared as to be as ſoft and flexible as our clothes; it is then called *quoba*; but *ouneba*, if made of the ſkins of wild animals. The captain almoſt uniformly wears one of tiger's ſkin, the hair being turned inſide. The colour of theſe cloaks is always brown, like that of coffee.

The women wear none of the beforementioned ornaments, except thoſe of the ears, the beads on their necks, and the rings on their wriſts. They always cover their heads with a cap, made of the ſkin of an animal, which they call *Babala*; but the coloniſts, *Byſhbuck*. This cap is very long, and gradually growing narrower, terminates almoſt in a point. From this point are ſuſpended eight or ten ſtrings of metal beads, about three inches long. The lower part of the cap has four projections (two on each ſide) about a yard long, and two fingers broad, (four fingers where they expand into the cap.) When this cap is placed on the head, its point, with the ſtrings, lies on the forehead, and exactly reſembles the epaulette which military officers wear on their ſhoulders. The bands either hang looſe down, or are tied up, by which the cap and its point are ſecured in their poſition. The cap is commonly adorned with ſeveral rows of beads.

The woman's cloak is faſtened in the middle to the body with a girdle of leather; the upper part is reflected, and hangs down, leaving the upper part of the body uncovered; but if the woman has a young child, ſhe places it on her back, and ſecures it there, by drawing up the upper part of her cloak tight round the child and her body, by means of another ſtring. Beſides this cloak, they wear an apron of the ſame ſtuff as their caps. Both ſexes wear rings of metal on their fingers and great toes.

I forgot to mention the ſhoes which the men commonly carry in their hands, faſtened to a ſtick, in order to put them on when their feet are in danger of being wounded, by the length or roughneſs of the road. They are nothing more than ſoles of thick leather, two or three inches longer and broader than the foot; and they are faſtened to the foot by means of two ſtrings and a piece of leather, four inches broad, which cover the foot. Men always, but women never, walk with a ſtick five feet long, two or three aſſagays, and a club. I never ſaw women wearing ſhoes; but the genteeler ſort few rows of buttons to the back of their cloaks, and to each ſhoulder a bunch of tails of different animals; the moſt common of which are tigers and wild cats. When the men go to war, or to hunt lions, they uſe ſhields of an oblong ſquare form, two of which are cut out of the hide of one ox; whereas the Inbo uſe circular ones, of which only one can be made out of a hide.

The nature of the country is mountainous, and rich of water. The ſoil is argillaceous, tempered with fine ſand, and very fertile. The whole ſurface, and even the tops of the mountains, are covered with woods, ſhrubs, graſs, and other vegetables; never naked and parched, except in uncommonly dry ſeaſons. The winter, which is the rainy ſeaſon at the Cape, is in Caffreland the dryeſt; and moſt of the rain comes down by thunder-ſtorms in the ſummer. The country in general is conſiderably elevated above the level of the ſea, and much colder than, from its nearneſs to the tropic (7°) might be expected. I think the plentiful rains,

the

the high mountains, and the ſtrong electricity prevailing in the atmoſphere, may be mentioned among the cauſes of its fertility. The thunder-ſtorms, which are more frequent and tremendous than in Europe, exhibit alſo uncommon phenomena. The flaſhes of lightning, which in Europe diffuſe a light through the air, which dazzle the eye, and diſappear in a moment, *here* conſiſt of a ſtream of diſtinct ſparks drawn by the earth from the clouds, or from one cloud by another. This ſtream is commonly double or triple; and ſometimes laſts two or two ſeconds and a half. This has, of courſe, a greater force, as it is attended by leſs light. I never obſerved any boreal or rather auſtral aurora. There is little difference, with reſpect to cold, between ſummer and winter: and if ſometimes the green leaves of ſome trees look not ſo bright and lively in this laſt ſeaſon, it is more for want of rain, than on account of the cold. The ſwallows, however, leave this country in winter time, which is not the caſe in the country of the Tambouchis, where they ſtay the whole year. The Caffres ſow their corn in the ſpring; but the Tambouchis obſerve no ſeaſon. I obſerved that, in winter, no parrots were to be ſeen; which had been in ſummer in prodigious quantities.

The country is remarkably healthy. I do not know any inſtances of intermitting fevers, conſumption, ſcorbutic hydropic complaints. There is, however, ſometimes a great mortality among this people, occaſioned by putrid typhi, ariſing from their diet, when milk is ſcarce in dry ſeaſons, and their cloſe confinement to their huts.

I found, the 5th of December, 1799, in the latitude of 29° 41′ the variation of the needle 28′ weſterly; but I had no inſtruments for meteorological obſervations.

Sheep do not thrive well in Caffre-land; and though they find plenty of rich paſture, emaciate. I obſerved that the lambs born in this country, never got that enormous fat tail which is the characteriſtic of African ſheep.

There was alſo, in 1800, a mortality among the calves; but the diſeaſe which in the decline of the ſummer deſtroyed ſuch vaſt quantities of horſes in the colony, was not obſerved among our horſes in Caffre-land: this month, however, it appeared while we ſtaid in that of the Boſchemen.

Soil and Foſſils. I have had no time for inveſtigation, and no inſtruments to inquire into the nature of the objects that might have preſented themſelves to my view. I heard ſay, that nitre and brimſtone are to be found in Caffre-land; but I have never met with them. That the colony produces both, ſeems certain, as the coloniſts prepare gunpowder from them. Between the Debe and Quakoubi, I found, about two feet under ground, a ſtratum of round grains, of the ſize of ſmall peaſe, of a browniſh red colour, which ſeemed to be an iron ore.

Vegetables. The moſt common tree is the large thorn-tree, from which the Gum Arabic exudes. Its inner rind ſerves the Caffres for food; and the outer, which is of a bright red colour, to prepare the ſkins of animals for clothing.

I recollect to have ſeen only three kinds of European wood; the willow, and the black and red ebony. Beſides theſe, there is a variety of timber, of which I will only mention the names by which they are known in the colony, viz. the Geelhout, Roodhout, Aſſagaihout, Yzerhout, Buffelbal, Nieſhout, Stinkhout, and the Gonjawood, which I could not diſtinguiſh from mahogany. There grows alſo the Boereboon, (called by the natives Inquaem) a tree which produces flowers of a beautiful red colour, belonging to the *decandria, monogynia, ſtamina corollæ petalis longiora. Corrolla pentapetala. Calyx tetraphyllis corollæ concolor.* The fruit is a legumen, containing large beans of an excellent taſte; the bread tree of the Hottentots, which this people call Kongwe; and the pith of which, reduced to a powder, they uſe inſtead of flour, for bread.

The *Euphorbium antiquorum verum* grows here in vaſt quantities, and to the height of thirty feet. I have ſeen trees of this kind ſixteen inches in diameter. The effect which its juice had in curing an incipient cataract, I have mentioned in a former letter, directed to Dr Haweis.

Caffraria might be looked upon by a botaniſt as his paradiſe; but as I have no taſte for that ſcience, nor indeed for natural hiſtory in general, my knowledge of the character of a few more obvious

obvious plants, is too ſcanty to preſent you with them; nor do I ſuppoſe that you would look even upon a more complete collection as much intereſting. When I firſt came into this country, I took down the characters of ten or twelve, and drew their figures; but want of time ſoon hindered me from going on. I obſerved, that though the *pentandria* claſs is the moſt numerous in botanical ſyſtems, and perhaps in the univerſe, in Caffre-land the *hexandria* ſeems at leaſt to be equal to it. Among the aloetic plants belonging to this claſs, I found a genus, the juice of which reſembles, in every reſpect, the gamboge of the ſhops; which, however, I think is the product of another plant.

A NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE TO COCHIN CHINA.

Concluded from p. 762.

PURSUANT to my agreement, however, with the mandarin, we went on ſhore the 22d of July in the evening. He, together with ſeveral others, received us upon the beach, and conducted us to his houſe; when it grew dark we were entertained by a ſet of dancing women. Theſe ladies differed little in their performance from thoſe of Hinduſtan. The muſic conſiſted of a kind of pipe and tabor, caſtinets, and an humble imitation of the violin. About ten we retired to ſupper upon our own proviſions. Mats and cots were provided for our repoſe. About eight in the morning we commenced our march, my companions on horſeback, and myſelf in a ſilken net, extended at each end by a piece of ivory about twenty inches long, through ſeveral ſmall holes, in which paſſed the threads it was woven with, which being collected together, formed a loop, by which it was ſuſpended to a pole in the form of a hammock; over the pole was a pinjaree of fine matts covered with painted paper: it requires but two bearers, for with that number I was carried fifteen miles in the day without changing. Our road at firſt lay along the banks of a conſiderable river, till we entered a well cultivated valley, which appeared encompaſſed on all ſides with high mountains. In this valley we paſſed through three or four pretty villages pleaſantly ſituated, in which, as well as on other parts of the road, were public houſes, where tea, fruits, and other refreſhments are ſold to travellers. At noon we alighted at one of them, and partook of a dinner, which conſiſted of fowls cut into ſmall pieces, dreſſed up with a little greens and ſalt, ſome fiſh, &c. We left the village about four in the afternoon, and in the duſk of the evening reached another, which was within an hour's ride of the king's reſidence; here we ſtaid during the night.

Early in the morning we purſued our journey through the paddy fields, and at eight o'clock came in ſight of the fort his majeſty reſided in. The eaſt front, by a gate of which we entered, extended about three quarters of a mile, and was merely a ſtraight ſtone wall, in many places much out of repair, without guns, embrazures, flanking towers, or any other requiſite to make it a place of ſtrength. It is ſufficient, however, for the purpoſes of its poſſeſſor. I was informed it was a ſquare, and that the other ſides correſponded with the one we entered at. When we came to the gate, we waited half an hour in an hovel; the gate and wall were entirely without guards, and the ground within laid out in paddy-fields. We then proceeded on about half a mile, when we alighted at the houſe of the king's ſon-in-law, where we ſtaid about half an hour, and partook of ſome beetle. He then conducted us to a houſe near his own, which, he ſaid, was alloted for our reſidence. He requeſted to ſee what we had brought for the king, which we ſhewed him. The king, he ſaid, would grant us an audience next morning; afterwards he took his leave.

By

By ſix o'clock next morning, a meſſage was brought us, that his majeſty was ready to receive us. We then attended our conductor for near a mile, till we came in ſight of the palace from an eminence; here we were deſired to diſmiſs all our attendants, and to leave our ſwords, as it was never permitted to any body to enter into the preſence with arms. Theſe preliminaries adjuſted, we advanced towards the palace. In the front were drawn up two ranks of men, conſiſting of 100 each, with ſpears, pikes, halberts, &c. of various faſhions, with ſome banners flying, and from within appeared the muzzles of two long braſs cannon. In the middle of a gravelled terrace, in front of the palace, was laid the preſents I brought. As ſoon as we aſcended this terrace, the mandarin, our conductor, told us to make our obeiſance in the ſame manner he did, which conſiſted in proſtrating himſelf three times with his forehead to the ground. This mode of ſalutation, however, appearing to us rather too humiliating, we contented ourſelves with making as many bows, after the Engliſh faſhion. We mounted half a dozen ſteps to the apartment his majeſty and his court were aſſembled in: It was open in the front and at the ſides, the roof tiled and conſtructed in the Cochin Chineſe faſhion, ſupported by fine wooden pillars, the back part wainſcotted; againſt this was placed the throne, which roſe two or three ſteps above the floor of the apartment; and on the eminence ſtood an arm chair, painted red, and ornamented with the heads of dragons, in which the king ſat, having before him a ſmall table covered with a red ſilk cuſhion, wrought with gold flowers, for him to lean upon. On each ſide the throne was placed a chair; in one was ſeated his brother, the other was empty, and, as I underſtood, belonged to another brother, who was then at Donai. Several rows of benches were behind theſe, and upon them were ſeated the mandarins according to their rank. The king was clothed in a robe of ſilk, of a deep yellow, upon which dragons and other figures were wrought in gold; upon his head he wore a kind of cloſe cap turned up behind, the front ornamented with ſome jewels, and on the top of it was a large red ſtone, through which paſſed a wire, raiſing it a few inches, which ſhook and ſpangled as he moved himſelf. The mandarins were many of them clad in gowns of ſilk of different colours, adorned with dragons, and their caps with flowers of gold or gilt. Round their waiſts they wore girdles, ſome of which were covered with ſcarlet broad-cloth, faſtened with claſps of gold, and decorated with cornelian ſtones ſet in the ſame metal. Upon the whole, their appearance was a fine one: and although the ſcene wanted many of the requiſites which conſtitute grandeur and magnificence among other eaſtern princes, as a profuſion of jewels, carpets, attendants, &c. the regularity and decorum obſerved here preſented one with ſome adequate ideas of a powerful ſovereign ſurrounded by his court. In the front was placed a bench for me and my companions, where we were ſeated next to the king's ſon-in-law.

I then, through the interpreter, addreſſed myſelf to the king, telling him that "I was a ſervant of the Engliſh government in Bengal, from whence I had been deputed to ſettle a commercial and friendly intercourſe with the inhabitants of Cochin China." He ſaid, "that the fame of the Engliſh exploits at ſea had reached him, and that he had heard they exceeded all other nations in the number of their ſhips, and excelled in the management of them; but they made an ill uſe of the advantage, for he had alſo been informed that they indiſcriminately attacked and plundered whatſoever veſſels they met with: That he was very willing to permit the Engliſh to trade to his ports; and hoped that they, in return, would not moleſt his galleys, boats, or other veſſels." I replied, "that the firſt part of his information, reſpecting the power of the Engliſh by ſea, was ſtrictly true; but the latter was abſolutely falſe, and muſt have been inſinuated to him by thoſe who were jealous of our proſperity, and wiſhed to give him an unfavourable and unjuſt opinion of us: That the Engliſh were, at the preſent time, at peace with all foreign nations, and that their ſhips reſorted to almoſt all the parts in the known world, where their merchants were renowned for their probity and the fairneſs of their dealings."

dealings." He then acquainted me that the Engliſh might trade to his ports; and, after ſome explanation, it was at length ſettled, that for veſſels of three maſts 7000 quans ſhould be paid, (they allowed us five quans for a Spaniſh dollar,) for thoſe of two maſts 4000, and ſmaller ones 2000 quans each.

His majeſty ſoon after withdrew to his private houſe, where we were ſhortly afterwards requeſted to attend him. Diveſted of his robes and cap of ſtate, and having on a plain ſilk jacket buttoned with ſmall diamonds, and a piece of red ſilk wrapped round his head in the form of a turban, here our converſation was general; he began with repeating his good intentions towards the Engliſh, and how deſirous he was of connecting himſelf with us. That although, to ſave appearances before his council, he had mentioned a ſum of money to be paid by our ſhips for the liberty of trading, yet to procure the friendſhip of the Engliſh nation, he would never exact it from them, but would ſhew them every indulgence in his power. He enumerated the articles produced in his country, as pepper, cardemoms, cinnamon, agala-wood, elephants' teeth, tin, and many others, which he ſaid, the ignorance of his people prevented them from making the moſt of; and that for this reaſon, as well as for inſtructing his people in the art of war, he earneſtly deſired that the Governor of Bengal would ſend him ſome capable perſon.

He then diſcloſed ſome of his future deſigns to me; they were no leſs than to ſubdue the kingdom of Gambodia, with the whole peninſula as far as Siam, and the provinces belonging to Cochin China, to the north, now in the hands of the Tonquineſe. To effect theſe, he wiſhed for the aſſiſtance of ſome Engliſh veſſels, in recompence for which he would make them ſuch grants of land for ſettlements as they might think proper.

I promiſed him faithfully to report what he had ſaid to the governor-general in Bengal. He particularly requeſted, amongſt other things, that I would procure a horſe to be ſent him, coſt what it would, by the firſt veſſel to Cochin China, of a bay colour. After being treated with tea and beetle, we took our leave. In the evening he ſent me three papers; one ſealed with the great ſeal of the kingdom, ſet forth the conditions upon which Engliſh ſhips were to trade to his dominions; the other two were ſealed with a ſmaller ſeal; one deſcribes the horſe, &c. the other contains his licence for viſiting any of his ports.

The next morning we ſet out on our return to the veſſel. We reached Quinion the ſame day (July 26,) and in two days after ſailed for Turon. Upon the road coming from court, we were paſſed by his majeſty, who was going, on account of ſome bad news from his fleet at Donai, to perform a ſacrifice at a temple ſituated in the bay our veſſels lay in. He travelled in a neat palanquin, diſtinguiſhed by its being red, which colour no ſubject is allowed to uſe in dreſs or equipage. The ceremony, I was informed, conſiſted chiefly in bowing his head to the ground, and ſacrificing a buffalo.

Ignaack himſelf is allowed to have abilities; but theſe are ill ſeconded by the mandarins who govern under him; they are all low, illiterate men. Famine, and its attendant, peſtilence, have deſtroyed one half of the inhabitants of the country. Shocking are the accounts of the methods taken by the remainder to preſerve a miſerable exiſtence: at Hue, the capital, though in poſſeſſion of the Tonquineſe, and better ſupplied than any other place, *human fleſh was publickly ſold in the market.*

The force of Ignaack by land is very inconſiderable, and ſo deficient in the military art, that I may ſafely aver that 300 diſciplined men would rout his whole army. His marine force, conſiſting of a few galleys and ſome junks ſeized from the Chineſe, is almoſt as deſpicable. Finally, his government is held in the utmoſt deteſtation; yet the ſpirits of the people are ſo broken by the various calamities they have been afflicted with, that they want courage to reſiſt it effectually. Many of his ſoldiers, and almoſt all principal people I met with, openly declared to me, how reluctantly they ſubmit, and expreſſed their wiſhes that the Engliſh would take them under their protection; aſſuring us that upon the leaſt appearance of a force, the whole country would fly to join them.

About

About two degrees to the north of Quinion lies an iſland called Pulo Canton, and between thirty and forty minutes north of this, another named Pulo Campella: the latter poſſeſſes a convenient place for the ſhips to anchor in, and other advantages. Upon the continent oppoſite to this iſland is the entrance of a river, by which the junks go up to Faifo; and there is a branch of it which falls into the harbour of Turon.

We anchored in Turon Bay the 2d of Auguſt. Having obtained permiſſion, I hired a houſe in the village of Turon. There are the remains of ſeveral large and good houſes here, which had been deſtroyed in the late troubles. The land in the neighbourhood of the village was cultivated with rice, brinjalls, and ſome ſweet potatoes; the country farther back ſeemed entirely neglected; covered, however, in ſeveral places with groves of oranges, limes, jacks, plantains, and bamboos, in moſt of which were the remains of dwelling-houſes. When I had been here three or four days, the mandarin who governs the province of Cham, on the part of Ignaack, came down the river, attended by four galleys, rowing between 40 and 50 oars each, and landed at a houſe on the oppoſite ſide to where I lived; the ſame day he ſent to know when he ſhould wait on me? I choſe, however, to be firſt to make this compliment, and croſſed the river in one of his galleys for that purpoſe. He received me in great form, himſelf ſeated on a bench placed on an eminence, the inferior mandarins and ſoldiers, to a conſiderable number, placed on each ſide of him. This being the mandarin with whom the diſpute had happened the preceding year, (after preſenting him the paſſport I had received from the king,) I begged he would inform me how it had ariſen, and the cauſe of his ſeverity to the people who had fallen into his hands. He replied, "that the commander of the Engliſh ſhip had been prevailed on by ſome mandarins of the former government, then in arms at Turon, to aſſiſt them with men and arms; and that the ſhip's boat being ſent up the river with them, had been attacked by his people and taken; that ſome of the crew were killed, ſome jumped into the river and were drowned, and ſome fled into the woods, where they periſhed with hunger." He then gave me a licence for trading, ſtrictly enjoining all perſons to pay for what they purchaſed, and in no wiſe to moleſt or ill treat us. After he had given me an invitation to viſit him at Faifo, I took my leave, and he returned the ſame night.

The 18th I ſet out for Faifo. At one of the places where we ſtopped to give an account who we were, we found ourſelves under a high mountain, part of which impended over the river, and it ſeemed ready to tumble and bury us under its ruins. It was a large mountain of white marble, ſituate on a low plain, cloſe to the water ſide, unconnected with any of the diſtant hills. We could perceive ſeveral cracks and holes in the body of the mountain, and round it were lying ſome vaſt fragments. The eye, in wandering over it, preſented the fancy with the ideas of pillars, houſes, towers, &c.; near it were a few huts, inhabited by ſtone-cutters; I did not ſee any other ſpecimens of their ingenuity than peſtles and mortars of different ſizes. On our arrival at Faifo, we were ſurpriſed to find the recent ruins of a large city*, the ſtreets laid out on a regular plan, paved with flat ſtone, and well built brick houſes on each ſide. But alas! there was now little more remaining than the outward walls, within which, in a few places, you might behold a wretch, who formerly was the poſſeſſor of a palace, ſheltering himſelf from the weather in a miſerable hut of ſtraw and bamboos. The temples and their gods, however, were no further moleſted than in being robbed of their bells, which were ſeized for the purpoſe of being coined into money. After taking ſome refreſhment at Faifo, I ſet out for the reſidence of the mandarin, which was within an incloſure formed by driving ſtrong ſtakes into the ground, intermixed with bamboos growing; and

* It was taken and deſtroyed by one of Ignaack's generals; before that it was a place of very great trade, and furniſhed cargoes of ſugar, cinnamon, pepper, &c. to hundreds of junks which reſorted thither from all the ſea coaſts of China and Japan.

for ſome diſtance round it, ſhort pointed bamboos were driven obliquely into the ground, as if deſigned to keep off cavalry. The houſe was ſpacious, partly conſiſting of brick and partly of thatch and bamboos. This mandarin was almoſt as well attended as his maſter Ignaack; ſeveral of his people were well dreſſed, and had ſwords in their hands; the hilts and ſcabboards were ornamented with plates of beaten gold. My converſation with the mandarin was but ſhort; I was informed that he was an illiterate man, and had the character of being cruel and oppreſſive. I ſtaid only one day, and returned to the veſſel, being now the 15th of Auguſt.

On my arrival on board the *Amazon*, I was viſited by a Portugueze merchant juſt come from Hue, the capital of Cochin China. He told me he was charged with a verbal invitation to me from the Tonquineſe viceroy, to proceed thither, and diſpoſe of any articles of trade we might have remaining. Having previouſly diſpatched my writer and Mr Moniz with a letter to the Tonquineſe mandarin, requeſting this favour, and hearing that there was but a ſmall depth of water upon the bar of Hue river, I propoſed to the commander of the *Jenny* to go in his veſſel, which might give him an opportunity of diſpoſing of his inveſtment. He conſented; and leaving the *Amazon* in Turon Bay, I embarked, with Mr Bayard, the 18th of Auguſt. We anchored in the Bay of Chimay, which is the boundary of the Tonquineſe poſſeſſions; here I was met by my writer, accompanied by a mandarin, named Ong-ta-hia, with an anſwer to my letter, containing the permiſſion of the viceroy to proceed to Hue. When we came to the entrance of the river, the mandarin ſtationed there came on board in a galley, with a number of ſoldiers, and undertook to pilot the veſſel in.

Two days afterwards, I proceeded up to the town. Towards the ſea the land was ſandy and barren, but on advancing, the ſcene gradually changed, the lands put on every appearance of fertility, and we ſaw the huſbandmen on the banks buſied in cultivation. Abreaſt of the town, twenty-five Chineſe junks were at anchor; innumerable country boats were paſſing and repaſſing, and the ſhore was thronged with people. We landed at Ong-ta-hia's houſe; it was the reſort of the Chineſe, as his office conſiſted in reporting the arrival of their junks, and procuring them their clearances. The next day we viſited the viceroy. He reſided at the palace of the kings of Cochin China, ſix miles higher up the river than the town I landed at. The Abbe Raynal informs us its circumference is a league, and the walls of it planted with thouſands of cannon. This deſcription is certainly heightened; I viſited it ſeveral times myſelf, and a perſon who accompanied me found an opportunity of examining the whole. The fortifications is an oblong ſquare, the greater ſides extending about half a mile, the leſſer two-thirds of that diſtance. It is formed by a retaining wall, behind which a rampart of earth, 10 or 11 feet high, was thrown up, with ſteps riſing to a convenient level for the diſcharge of miſſile weapons. It had no embrazures, the guns being pointed through a kind of port-holes made in the bottom of the retaining walls. The number mounted was about 60; the largeſt nine-pounders. For ſix or eight feet without the wall, ſhort pointed bamboos, from ſix to twelve inches long, were driven obliquely into the ground; beyond theſe was a ditch, eight feet wide, and as many in depth, fenced with bamboos growing, which was ſucceeded by another ſpace with pointed ones driven in the ground, and the whole encompaſſed by a low checquered bamboo rail. The ground within the fort was divided by a number of brick walls, meeting at right angles, and forming ſquares; ſome were allotted to the holding markets, others to granaries, quarters for the ſoldiers, ſtables for horſes, elephants, &c. The whole was much out of repair.

The palace deſerved the name of a good lower-roomed houſe. The building was laid out in ſpacious verandahs and private rooms. In one of the verandahs I was introduced to the viceroy; I found him ſwinging in a net hammock, extended between one of the pillars and the wainſcot of the inner apartments. He was a venerable old man, about ſixty years of age, ſilver beard, and moſt engaging manners. His dreſs was plain and ſimple, conſiſting

ing of a loose gown of black glazed linen, with large sleeves, and black silk cap, and sandals on his feet. I acquainted him with my business in Cochin China, much in the same terms I had made use of to Ignatick. I then requested he would receive the present I brought him, as a small token of my respect. He then descended from his net, and seated himself upon the ground. He approved of my proposal to form a commercial intercourse with his nation, and would promote it all in his power. He then inquired several particulars respecting the nation I belonged to; as our force by sea and land, our commerce, customs, and religion. He also examined our hats, swords, and other parts of our dress, very minutely. He then requested us to partake of a repast, consisting principally of minced fowls, vegetables, pork, buffalo beef, fish, rice, sweetmeats, tea, spirits, &c.; during which several war elephants were brought into an area fronting the verandah, where some figures representing soldiers were placed in ranks; these the elephants attacked with great fury, seized them with their trunks, tossed them in the air, and trampled them under their feet. Some soldiers were employed in shooting at a butt, with long matchlocks, which had swivels and three-legged stands to fire them on. After a renewal of his professions of friendship and regard, we stood up to depart; he ordered all the mandarins who were with him to attend me to the general's, to whom it was necessary, he said, I should make a visit whenever I came to him. He then forced our acceptance of two ingots of silver, as an equivalent for the present (a gold repeating watch, set with a few small diamonds, emeralds,) I had made to him, and we departed.

Attended by a numerous train of mandarins, who marched before and behind us in ranks, we presented ourselves at the gate of Quan-jum Quen, who is an eunuch, and commander in chief of the fleet and army. Half an hour elapsed ere we were ushered into a large hall; we seated ourselves upon some chairs, placed for us before a rattan screen, from behind which a shrill voice called our attention to the object of our visit. He did not, however, become visible till the common questions were passed, and I had acquainted him with the reasons of my coming to Cochin China. The screen was then turned up, and a glimmering light, diffused from a small waxen taper, disclosed to our view, not the delicate form of a woman the sound had conveyed the idea of, but that of a monster, disgustful and horrible to behold. He was sitting in a kind of boarded shrine, in form like a clothes-press. He was short in stature, which was, however, amply made up to him in bulk; and I may venture to affirm he measured an ell over the shoulders. Great flaps hung down from his cheeks, and his little twinkling eyes were scarcely to be discerned for the flat folds, which formed deep recesses around them. He hardly appeared civil, and received my present with indifference. In my subsequent visits I found he was a great pedant, and valued himself much on his knowledge of books.

A month elapsed in a mutual intercourse of civilities. I had hitherto resided in the house of Ong-ta-hia, but finding it inconvenient, I made repeated applications to him for a separate one. He as often evaded complying, and by his underhand influence prevented my hiring one. He was afraid, should he suffer me to remove from under his own eye, some parts of the unreasonable profits he hoped from his connection with us might escape him; and his unwillingness to discharge the amount of his purchases that he had made from us, may be considered as the first causes leading to the troubles we were afterwards involved in. As I found this man was the particular agent of the eunuch, I made him several considerable presents, but all inadequate to the satisfying his rapacity.

The latter end of September the rains were so heavy, and the floods came down with so much violence from the mountains, that almost the whole town was overflowed in one night, during which the noise made by the rushing of the water through the streets, and the cries of the people removing their effects, was horrible and alarming beyond idea. In the morning great numbers of boats were passing in the streets. Notwithstanding these floods happen several times during the periodical rains, few precautions are taken by the

inhabitants to ſecure themſelves againſt the ſometimes melancholy conſequences; and the government is ſo abſurd as not to allow an upper roomed houſe to any one but their ſovereign.

Attention to our health obliged me to be urgent with Ong-ta hia for his conſent to remove to a drier ſituation; and the application apparently reconciled him to it. It was only in appearance; for in three days after, a young man, who, with his father, ſerved me as linguiſts, complained to me that he had been ſeverely beaten by Ong ta-hia for being inſtrumental in my leaving his houſe. The following day I was alarmed by the ſame perſons, of his going to put to death two of my people. I immediately haſtened to his houſe, accompanied by Mr Totty, and found them buſied in binding a poor ſick Frenchman, and a cook belonging to Captain Hutton, to the pillars of the houſe. Ong-ta hia was ſtanding with a drawn ſword, and foaming at the mouth with paſſion. I requeſted to know the reaſon for ſuch conduct, but he replied not, and withdrew. I afterwards found it was in conſequence of ſome trifling difference between the Frenchman and a woman in the bazar who ſold eggs. The doctor and myſelf releaſed the priſoners without any oppoſition, promiſing that they ſhould, nevertheleſs, be delivered up to the viceroy for an inveſtigation of their conduct; which being done, a deciſion was given in our favour. No redreſs, however, was to be obtained. About this time I received a letter from Capt. Maclennan, acquainting me that the bad ſtate of his health had led him to reſolve on bringing the veſſel up to the mouth of the river, that he might land and try the benefit of a change of air. I was exceedingly ſorry that Captain Maclennan's health ſhould render ſo imprudent a ſtep neceſſary. I was convinced it would alarm the government. I haſtened to the viceroy and eunuch, and acquainted them with the cauſe of her approach; notwithſtanding which, a parade of guards was made, and a number of precautions taken.

The *Amazon* anchored at the mouth of the river. The captain came on ſhore, but in ſuch a ſituation as to preclude all hopes of his recovery. Having been given over by our ſurgeon, he tried the phyſicians of the country. All was in vain, and Captain Maclennan breathed his laſt the 2d of October. The 7th of the ſame month was fixed for his funeral, and early in the morning we aſſembled to attend it. The Portugueze burial-ground, where I purchaſed permiſſion to depoſit his remains, was at the diſtance of ſeven or eight hours journey. The beauty of the country round this ſpot was not to be equalled by that of any I had before ſeen in the Eaſt.

The behaviour of the Chineſe had latterly been very ſuſpicious. On my firſt arrival, they ſuppoſed I was come with a force to avenge the wrongs done to the Engliſh ſhip the year before, by the mandarin commanding at Turon, and ſeemed to vie with each other in ſupporting any deſigns I might have either againſt the Tyſons or the Tonquineſe themſelves, from the hope of coming in for a ſhare of the plunder, which would compenſate them for the loſſes they before had ſuſtained. Diſappointed by the repeated declarations of my intentions being entirely pacific, they were afraid it would prove to them rather detrimental than otherwiſe. An alteration in their behaviour to us ſoon became evident. They repreſented to the mandarins that the Engliſh were come to deprive them of their country, and invented a number of falſities the moſt abſurd and groundleſs. I was frequently warned that they intended to plunder us: our lives and property were equally at their mercy. My houſe was perpetually filled with mandarins, ſent to hear and adjuſt theſe fabricated grievances, from whence there was no other way of diſlodging them than by preſents; this, in the end, only proved an inducement to freſh parties to viſit me, and ſomething or other was daily deviſed to give me trouble. I avoided every thing I could that might tend to altercation. When I repreſented my caſe to the viceroy, he referred me to the eunuch, and only regreted his want of power to afford me redreſs. From the eunuch, whoſe province it was to adjuſt all theſe differences, an accumulation of injuries and inſults was all I could procure.

Things continued in this diſagreeable ſituation till the beginning of November. The monſoon beat with great violence on the coaſt, and our proſpect

of getting away, which we anxiously looked for, was ſtill diſtant. A few days after the veſſel anchored in Hue river, the mandarin we brought from Bengal left her, and retired amongſt ſome of his relations, who lived in diſguiſe at a ſhort diſtance from town. From the time of my arrival in Cochin China, I continued to receive the ſtrongeſt proofs of the gratitude and attachment of this poor man; and it will preſently appear that we were indebted to him for the preſervation of our lives.

From the beginning of October I received frequent hints that the government had treacherous deſigns againſt us; that the eunuch, our declared enemy, had brought over a majority of the council to his meaſures. On the 7th of November, as myſelf and Mr Totty were ſitting at breakfaſt, a meſſenger came in from our mandarin, and deſired to ſpeak with me immediately. He told me that his maſter, alarmed at the danger we were in, and anxious for our preſervation, had ſent him to adviſe us to ſecure ourſelves on board the veſſel without delay. He added that the King * of Tonquin, inſtigated by the repreſentations of the eunuch, had ſent an order to the government to ſeize our veſſel: that the mandarins were arming their galleys, and had ordered their troops to be in readineſs for ſervice; and concluded by exhorting us to take inſtant meaſures for our ſecurity. This intelligence was preſently corroborated by the landlord of the houſe we lived in, who informed me that the Tonquineſe had determined to ſeize our veſſel, and that he hourly expected a party of ſoldiers being ſent to ſecure our perſons.

Having, therefore, put what we had moſt valuable into a ſmall country boat I kept in pay, Mr Totty and myſelf, with three or four Bengal ſervants and ſome Chineſe rowers, left town between eight and nine in the morning, and reached the veſſel at noon. The following day, (Nov. 8th,) my writer, whom I had left in town, contrived to ſend a great part of my baggage on board the veſſel.

On the 9th, in the morning, five Portugueze, in conſequence of our ſudden departure, fled from town on board our veſſel for ſafety. In the evening they were followed by my writer and another Portugueze, diſguiſed in the habits of the country. All hands now joined in putting our little bark in the beſt ſtate of defence ſhe would admit of. Our force conſiſted of the captain and mate, one Engliſh ſailor, two Frenchmen, two Portugueze, and thirteen laſcars, which, with myſelf, the doctor, my writer, and our ſervants, amounted to about 30 perſons. The veſſel was armed with ſeven or eight old and very bad two-pounders, for which we had ſcarce any ſhot, two ſwivels, ſome wall-pieces, and twelve muſkets.

The 10th, I ſent to the mandarin of the look-out houſe, juſt oppoſite where we lay, requeſting he would ſend me a writer, as I wanted to write a letter to the principal mandarins. He complied. I wrote to them my reaſon for leaving town ſo ſuddenly, but added, I did not believe them guilty of ſo baſe a deſign, though prudence required me to be on my guard for our own ſafety.

The 13th, we diſcovered ſome galleys and large boats come from town, which brought too at a little diſtance from where we lay: we learnt that they were laden with guns and ſtores, to erect batteries to prevent our eſcaping them.

The 14th, at day-break, we diſcovered two large armed galleys, full of men, dropping down with the tide, upon the veſſel, as if with an intention of boarding us; we hailed them, and deſired them to keep clear of us; but no anſwer was made. The captain then requeſted permiſſion to fire at them; the people in the forecaſtle accordingly fired ſome ſwivels, and two or three guns at them. Upon this the galleys immediately dropped their anchors, and numbers of the people jumped into the river. I now determined to follow up what we had begun, and ordered two jolly-boats to be manned and armed, and ſent them to bring off the galleys, furniſhing them with a few hand-grenades each, which I directed them to throw into the gallies before they attempted to board them. Theſe directions being obſerved, on the burſting

of

* The ſovereign of Tonquin has only the ſhadow of authority; the whole power, ſince the beginning of the 15th century, having fallen into the hands of the general.

of the hand-grenades, 30 or 40 more from each of them jumped over-board, and fwam to the fhore. Our people then towed them off, together with five others, which lay near them; all of which we deftroyed, except one with a brafs gun in her, about a twelve-pounder; fhe however foundered, in three days after, in a gale of wind, aftern of our veffel. The largeft of thefe galleys was about 50 feet long, and 12 broad, armed with fpears 20 feet long, and matchlocks, with great quantities of powder and balls.

Conficious, however, that they were now preparing their utmoft force to attack us, and that the various meffengers they were fending on pretence of making an amicable adjuftment of differences, were nothing more than fo many pretexts for protracting our departure, I was ftill exceedingly apprehenfive for the fafety of the veffel, in attempting to crofs the bar at the preffent inclement feafon. From this conffideration, I determined to write to the commander of the Amazon, to come (if practicable) to the mouth of the river, and favour our efcape, or to fend us his boat to affift us in getting over the bar. On the 16th I preffed a boat for this purpofe, and difpatched her to the Amazon.

The feven following days the weather was fo exceedingly bad, we began to doubt of the boat's being able to reach Turon. In this interval, feveral meffages paffed between the viceroy and me. He ftill continued his affurances of friendfhip, and invited me to an interview. The bearers, however, as regularly affured me of his infincerity, and informed me of the preparations carrying on againft us; and that the badnefs of the weather had deftroyed four fire-floats they had conftructed to burn our veffel, and which had retarded an attack being made on us; that numbers of guns were carried to erect batteries at the mouth of the river, in order to prevent our croffing the bar.

The 24th, the weather being a little fettled, we moved our veffel a little farther out. We now difcovered crowds of people on fhore, buffied in erecting batteries, &c. We fired fome fhot at them, but, owing to the fmallnefs of our guns, gave them little interruption. At fix o'clock in the afternoon, three or four guns began to play upon us, and continued till it was dark, but without any effect. The boat now arrived, which I difpatched to Turon; by her I received the guns and fhot I had defired, with a letter from the captain of the Amazon, informing me he had fent his boat, with three Europeans and five lafcars, to our affiftance, as it was not poffible to come up with his veffel.

In the night I was awakened by fome fhocks of the veffel ftriking the ground. I immediately went upon deck. The fcene which then prefented itfelf was difmal to the laft degree. The heavy fwell having driven the veffel from her anchors, fhe was then thumping her bottom upon a hard fand. Not a fingle perfon was keeping watch. The captain and his mate, overcome with fatigue, were both afleep; the reft of the fhip's company, to fhelter themfelves from the rain, were all in the hold. The country boat had broke loofe from our veffel, with two of our people on board, and was never afterwards heard of. Being low water, when the tide rofe we fortunately got the veffel off without damage. At day-break the Tonquinefe began a heavy fire at us; their fhot flew high, and the only damage fuftained was in the rigging. We returned their fire, but with little effect.

The 26th, feveral fhot ftruck the veffel's hull, and one killed the only Engliffh failor we had on board. About noon, a cry of joy refounded from every part of the veffel, that the Amazon's boat was in fight. But the furf being fo exceedingly high, we almoft defpaired of her being able to reach us. Unfortunately fhe made choice of a part of the channel where the furf broke with the greateft violence, and no fooner had fhe entered it, than fhe difappeared. Being unable to afford them the leaft affiftance, we concluded the whole boat's crew muft periffh. The Tonquinefe obferving this accident, elated with joy, fired at us with redoubled fury. In about an hour the heads of two men were difcovered fwimming towards the veffel: our boat inftantly put off to meet them, and fhortly returned with two Engliffhmen. They informed me that a Dutchman was loft in the furff, that fome of the lafcars had reached the fhore, and that the Tonquinefe, with wanton cruelty, during

ring their perilous ſituation, fired at them with ſmall arms.

The 27th, all our fore-topmaſt rigging was ſhot away; one ſhot ſtruck the veſſel between wind and water, which however was repaired with ſome difficulty.

The 28th, additional guns began to play, and ſeveral ſhot ſtruck us, weighing nine pounds. The try-ſail-maſt was ſhot away; the beſt bower cable parted cloſe to the hauſe-hole, being cut with a ſhot. Our ſituation now was truly alarming, and the injury we had ſuſtained was very material. To paſs the bar, while the wind was in its preſent direction, was impoſſible; to return to our former ſtation in the river, where the batteries would ſtill be nearer to us, was returning to inevitable ruin; and to remain where we were, expoſed to the fire of nine or ten pieces of cannon, was certain deſtruction. Critical as our ſituation was, it was neceſſary that ſomething ſhould ſpeedily be done. After a conſultation, we at length reſolved, (though with little hopes of ſucceſs) to try to bring about a reconciliation.

The 29th, at day-break, I ordered a white flag to be hoiſted at our top-gallant-maſt-head; and our people beckoned to the Tonquineſe to come on board. They immediately pulled down their war flag, and beckoned to us in return. The Tonquineſe, as we ſuppoſed, were waiting for orders from town, ſuffered us to remain unmoleſted the whole day. In the evening the wind changed, and at half paſt nine was at W. S. W. Our anchor was immediately weighed, our ſails ſet in the moſt profound ſilence, ſteered S. by E. through a channel not more than 60 yards wide; and, notwithſtanding the darkneſs of the night, and the breakers ſtill running high, at half paſt ten o'clock we croſſed the bar. The Tonquineſe then perceived we were giving them the ſlip, kept up a brisk fire at us, till long after we were out of the reach of their guns, but not a ſhot ſtruck us. The wind continued favourable the whole night; the next morning, at eleven o'clock, we anchored in Turon bay, at which place we repaired the Jenny.

The 18th of December we left Turon, when the Jenny was ſeparated from us in a gale of wind, which, continuing with ſuch violence, prevented us from again touching at Cochin China. We then bore away, and on the 23d of December 1779, anchored in Malacca roads, ſailed from thence the 8th, and arrived at Calcutta the 16th of February following.

FOREIGN LITERARY NOTICES.

OUR extenſive and valuable ſettlements in India have, of late, made many turn their attention to eaſtern literature. Mr Richardſon of Calcutta, who is already well known, on account of other valuable works reſpecting oriental learning, has lately publiſhed a new theory and proſpectus of all the Perſian verbs, with their ſynonimes in Engliſh and Hindooſtanee. He has, likewiſe, publiſhed a ſcheme of Hindooſtanee orthography, in Roman characters, to facilitate the tranſlation of the one character into the other.

A valuable work has lately been publiſhed at Copenhagen, by Profeſſor Munter, under the title of Obſervations on the Antiquities, Inſcriptions, &c. found among the ruins of Babylon. To which is added, a Diſſertation on the Carthagenian and Vandalic Medals, illuſtrated by a plate.

There will ſpeedily appear, in the library of the academy at Jena, the firſt volume of a collection of the works of Spinoza. The ſecond and laſt volume will follow in a ſhort time. This edition is quite complete, and very correct. The editor is M. Paulus, profeſſor of theology, known by his profound knowledge of the eaſtern languages, and by his Commentary upon the New Teſtament.

Teſtament. As there has not yet been a complete edition of the works of this great philoſopher, and as ſome of them are very ſcarce, this new one will be equally intereſting, to men of literature and ſcience.

Dr Edward Stevens, we learn, is at preſent engaged in a Natural Hiſtory of St Domingo, compiled from the materials he collected during his reſidence in that iſland, as Conſul General of the United States of America. This work will be very complete, and will be accompanied with engravings, executed by the beſt American artiſts.

It is expected that a Life of Waſhington will ſoon make its appearance in America, and that an edition in London will immediately follow.

The ſecond volume of the tranſlation from the German, of Profeſſor Pallas's Travels through the Southern Provinces of the Ruſſian Empire, illuſtrative of the manners, dreſs, and cuſtoms, of the various Tartar nations, is in great forwardneſs, and will ſoon be publiſhed.

Mr Nicholſon's tranſlation of the new and improved edition of M. Fourcroy's Syſtem of Chemical Knowledge, and its application to the phenomena of nature, is in the preſs, and will ſpeedily be publiſhed. From the variety of uſeful information contained in the original work, it will be gratifying to the public, to ſee it in an Engliſh dreſs, particularly when executed by a perſon of ſuch celebrity as Mr Nicholſon.

The Rev. Thomas Falconer, late fellow of Corpus Chriſti College, Oxford, is propoſing to publiſh, by ſubſcription, a tranſlation of the Geography of Strabo, illuſtrated by Maps, Coins, Inſcriptions, &c. accompanied with the Notes of Thomas Falconer Eſq. of Cheſter, of the Oxford editor entire, of Siebenkees, and Tzſchucke of Germany, and with his own.

We hear that a new tranſlation of Apollonius Rhodius, by Mr Wm Preſton of Dublin, is nearly ready for publication.

The Annals of Philoſophy, which were begun by Dr Garnett, and which met with general approbation, are to be continued, and the ſecond volume will ſoon appear.

Mr Cavallo's Elements of natural and Experimental Philoſophy, in three volumes 8vo, are preparing for publication.

The Rev. Richard Warner, curate of St James's, Bath, is about to publiſh a volume of Practical Diſcourſes, of which four are upon the Evidences of Chriſtianity.

Mr Giſborne, we are informed, is preparing a ſecond volume of Sermons.

A ſet of Elegant Engravings is preparing for publication, entitled, Brittannia Depicta. The engravings are taken by W. Byrne, from drawings by Meſſrs Hearne, Smith, Farington, Turner, &c. One of the objects of the publication, is to illuſtrate and refer to, the new general ſurvey of Great Britain, about to be publiſhed in the ſame arrangement, by the Rev. Daniel Lyſons, and Samuel Lyſons, Eſq. A ſhort deſcription will be affixed to each engraving.

At Venice, in the library of St Mark, there is a curious Marine Chart of the American Seas, by Bianchi, executed before the voyages of diſcovery, by Americus Veſputius. This chart proves, beyond all queſtion, that the Europeans had ſome knowledge of America, before it was diſcovered by Americus or Columbus. We hear that it will ſoon be publiſhed by Morelli the librarian.

The Greeks in the Northern parts of Turkey, ſeem again to be beginning to apply themſelves to literary purſuits. Martin's general Grammar of Sciences, has been tranſlated from Engliſh into modern Greek, in two volumes 8vo, by Anthemus Gazi, ſettled at Vienna. The ſame gentleman has likewiſe printed at Vienna, a tranſlation of Condillac's Logic, with notes; and propoſes to tranſlate into modern Greek, the beſt elementary books upon different ſciences, particularly French books. But theſe efforts are not confined to tranſlations. The ſame Anthemus Gazi, in the year 1800, publiſhed ſeveral original geographical works. This is a favourable omen of the revival of learning among that once celebrated people.

It appears that a general paſſion for reading at preſent prevails throughout Germany. We are told, that in the Proteſtant part of that country alone, there are from 800 to 1000 circulating libraries; and that in moſt of theſe, novels and plays are almoſt the only books

books that are read. This evil, however, prevails chiefly in the villages, and ſmall country towns. In the larger cities, reading inſtitutions are better regulated, and conducted upon a plan leſs calculated to corrupt the taſte and ſentiments of the people.

The firſt fair for books lately eſtabliſhed at New York, in imitation of thoſe of Leipſick and Franckfort, exceeded the moſt ſanguine hopes of ſucceſs. There were ſold at it no leſs than 510,000 volumes. Another fair of the ſame kind is about to be eſtabliſhed at Philadelphia, which will be held upon the firſt Tueſday of September. Another will take place at New York in the month of October.

A ſpirit for agricultural improvements ſeems to be rapidly diffuſing itſelf through all the countries of Europe. At the laſt meeting of the Society of agriculture and arts, lately inſtituted at Boulogne, a prize was propoſed to the perſon who ſhould preſent, at their next meeting, the beſt paper upon the nature of marls, the different kinds of them, and the moſt advantageous method of employing them, according to the nature of the ſoil.

The academy of ſciences at Rouen, at their laſt meeting, propoſed the following prize queſtion; What are the proper means for conducting agriculture, in the department of the Lower Seine, to that degree of perfection of which this department is ſuſceptible? The prize is a golden medal, of 300 francs value.

The Society of emulation at Rouen concluded its laſt meeting, with a report from M. Bremontier, who had been appointed to determine the merit of the papers that had been given to reſolve the queſtion, How far is it proper for the French to adopt the Greek cuſtoms? Four papers had been ſent to the Society upon the ſubject, conſidered as it reſpects health and morals. The paper, No 2d, gained the prize of 300 francs. The author is C. Amaury Duval, chief of the department of ſciences and arts at Paris. This meeting was numerouſly attended by the fair ſex, who conſidered themſelves as deeply intereſted in the deciſion of the queſtion.

SCOTISH LITERARY NOTICES.

PROPOSALS are iſſued, for publiſhing by ſubſcription, a ſecond edition, conſiderably enlarged, of Mr Brydſon's book "Upon the Diſtinctions of Rank in Society; their Connection with the Britiſh Conſtitution; and their ſpecific Characteriſtics, derived from the Uſages of Chivalry, and the general Economy of the Feudal Syſtem, illuſtrated by Heraldic Figures." This work is conducted upon a new plan. Dr Millar of Glaſgow has inveſtigated the diſtinction of ranks with much ingenuity and learning. The nature of the feudal ſyſtem hath been frequently examined; and we have many books upon heraldry; but the object of Mr Brydſon, in this work, is chiefly to point out in what manner theſe ſubjects illuſtrate and explain each other. At the deſtruction of the Roman empire, the northern conquerers, in the progreſs of ſociety, perfected the feudal ſyſtem. Europe was divided into a great number of petty kingdoms, which were inſpired with a ſpirit for freedom, and a fondneſs for war. Hence, war became the general profeſſion, and appellations, relative to a ſtate of warfare, are ſtill employed to characteriſe thoſe ages. They are called Feudal, becauſe every kingdom was divided into eſtates, called Fiefs or Feus, which were held almoſt univerſally, on the condition of performing military ſervice. The ſame period is alſo called the Ages of Chivalry, from the cavalry with which wars were chiefly carried on. The riders were completely armed, and the moſt diſtinguiſhed of them were called, by way of eminence, Chevaliers, (Knights.) Hence originated the different appella-

tions reſpecting chivalry. In order to diſtinguiſh the riders from each other, their arms were decorated with differents ornaments or emblems. Theſe, with whatever belonged to the diſcrimination of ranks, were under the regulation of officers called Heralds. Hence ariſes an intimate connection betwixt heraldry and chivalry: they tend to throw light on each other, and are the principal characteriſtics by which the times when they prevailed are diſtinguiſhed. When accurately and philoſophically inveſtigated, they muſt throw much new light upon the diſtinctions of rank in ſociety.

Mr Lockart Muirhead, librarian to the Univerſity of Glaſgow, intends to publiſh ſoon, an Account of his Travels through different parts of the Continent, in the years 1787, and 1789.

It gives us pleaſure to ſtate, that Profeſſor Robiſon is about to publiſh the Chemical Lectures of the late Dr Black of Edinburgh, from the author's manuſcripts, accompanied with notes and illuſtrations by the editor, in order to aſcertain the claims of Drs Black, Priestly, and other eminent philoſophers, to the great diſcoveries and improvements which have been lately made in chemiſtry. From the celebrity of Dr Black, and the learning and abilities of the editor, much may be expected from this publication.

Principal Brown, of the Mariſchal College, Aberdeen, is preparing for the preſs a volume of Sermons, which will be publiſhed at Edinburgh early next ſpring. We congratulate the public upon what they may expect from the well known talents of this author.

A fifth volume of the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh is now in the preſs, and will be publiſhed in a ſhort time.

Mr Butcher, Burgher miniſter at Cumbernauld, has ready for publication, a Concordance of all the words of the Greek Teſtament. All the paſſages where each of the words occur, are carefully detailed. And that the work might be compreſſed within as narrow bounds as poſſible, only the general meaning of every word is given. As an index, this appears to be the moſt complete work that hath yet appeared, and, on that account, we hope the author will meet with ſufficient encouragement to induce him to publiſh it.

A ſmall volume of Poems, by John Finlay, is in the Glaſgow preſs, and will be publiſhed immediately.

POETRY.

For the Scots Magazine.

SONG.

Tranſlated from the Gaelic.

BENEATH a hill, 'mang birken buſhes,
By a burnie's dimplt lin;
I told my love with artleſs bluſhes
To the Laſſie of the Glen.*

Chorus.

O the birken bank ſae graſſy;
Hey the burnie's dimplt lin:—
Dear to me's the bonnie laſſie
Living in yon raſhy Glen.

Lonely *Ruail!* thy ſtream ſae glaſſy,
Shall be ay my fav'rite theme;
For on thy banks my highland laſſie
Firſt confeſs'd a mutual flame.
O the birken &c.

There, as ſhe mark'd the ſportive fiſhes
Upward ſpring with quivering fin,
I ſlyly ſtole ſome charming kiſſes
Frae the Laſſie of the Glen.
O the birken &c.

What bliſs!—to ſit, (and nane to faſh us)
In ſome ſnug wee bonny den;
Or fondly ſtray amang the raſhes
Wi' the Laſſie of the Glen.
O the birken &c.

But tho' I wander now unhappy,
Far frae ſcenes we haunted then;
I'll ne'er forget "the bank ſae graſſy,"
Nor the "Laſſie of the Glen."
O the birken bank &c.

Rotheſay, } A.F.
20th Sept. 1802. }

* The *original* begins thus—
Taobh na h-aimhne, bun na'n ſtucan,
Ann an coille dhlu' na'n tom;
Dh'innis mi 'n tus run mo chridhe
Do na chaileag ghlinneach dhonn.

For the Scots Magazine.

THE SLAVE.

YE wild winds of Heaven how dreadful you rave
As o'er the huge billows you ſweep,
While thunder ſtalks forth from his echoing cave
And lightnings illumine the deep!

The mariner ſtarts at the heart-rending ſound,
As the tempeſt howls loud through the ſky,
While the broad-blazing Welkin ſpreads horror around,
He breathes his deſpair in a ſigh!

Alas! to his boſom is nature ſtill dear?
For Man does his heart dare to feel?
Can the rapture of friendſhip, the bliſs of a tear,
To his ſoul with ſtrong energy ſteal?

Yes! the heart-thrilling hopes of a far diſtant wife,
His offspring in childhood's ſoft bloom,
Makes the ſailor ſtill value the treaſure of life,
And affrighted recoil from the tomb!

But welcome ye ſtorms to the fetter-bound ſlave,
Ye thunderbolts burſt on his head;
Oppreſſion ne'er frowns on the realms of the grave,
Nor cruelty tramples the dead!

Ye band of oppreſſors, yon vaſt mountain-wave,
Now towering aloft to the ſkie,
Is big with deſtruction, no efforts can ſave,
Ye fiends how I ſmile when you die!

Dear ſhades of my parents I haſten to you,
Now robed in the glories of heav'n;
But know, to this breaſt, e'er I murmur'd adieu,
Revenge and dread triumph were given!

Glaſgow, 12th September. J. W.

For the Scots Magazine.

THE MOUNTAIN PINK.

HERE on this mountain's bleak and lofty brow,
Where rocks with turf are thinly cruſted o'er,
Whoſe ſcanty graſs, on the dry mould below,
Is ſcorched by piercing rays at noontide hour;
Nor nouriſhment ſcarce yields the ſtinted flower,
Which grows perchance upon its parched up brink;
Nor haply nurſed e'er by the genial ſhower,
Nor early morns refreſhing dews to drink,
But on the crimpy ſward its head is apt to ſink.

Yet here, ev'n here, the mountain pink behold!
By nature painted with the richeſt glow,
The opening buds its radiant flower unfold,
Which full in all their fragrant ſweetneſs blow:
Its beauties bright like crimſon velvet ſhow,
Tho' ſmall, how lovely its fair blooms appear,
As rich as thoſe that in the garden grow;
Foſtered with care their bulky head they rear,
While this unſeen untruded ſprings and withers here.

But now, ſweet flower, I'll thee remove with care;
And to the cultured border quick tranſplant,
There, henceforth, thou ſhalt bloſſom bright and fair,
Nor kind attention ſhalt thou ever want;
Tho' here thy nouriſhment hath been but ſcant,
There may thy tender roots luxuriant ſpread,
Thy widening crown produce a ſtronger plant,
And lengthning ſtalks ſupport each ſwelling head,
Whilſt withering blaſts again no more ſhall thee invade.

But ah! perhaps my kindneſs I may rue,
And my officious care may prove thy bane,
Thy veſſels ſtrained with juices rich and new,
May ſoon with blotches thy gay verdure ſtain;
And then all remedy may prove in vain.
Alas! thy blooming beauties ſoon may fade,
Then fondly I might wiſh thee here again,
When all thy honours in the duſt are laid,
And all thoſe graces gone in which thou art arrayed.

Thus oft in ſome ſequeſter'd lonely cot,
A genius bright ſhoots forth unknown to fame,
Of gen'rous heart, content with humble lot,
Nor e'er deſirous of a lofty name;
If but in virtue's paths withouten blame,
He treads; tho' all day long he toils for bread,

And blooming health invigorates his frame,
He little else, or nothing has to dread;
Nor fortune's surly frowns nor favours will he heed.

But if he chance to beam upon the sight,
Of some kind Patron, who, with good intent,
Spreads wide his fame, and calls him forth to light,
No longer in the homely cot he's pent;
But now whatever lux'ry can invent,
He freely shares; till giddy with his station
He headlong plunges; and his course is bent
Down pleasures stream, which ends in sore vexation,
Whilst in his fading frame is made sad devastation.

He's now flopt short amidst his mad career,
And death's unerring shafts, him keen assail,
Lo! his approaching fate is drawing near--
'Tis o'er—The grave's got him within its pale.—
Ah! what doth all his genius now avail,
Since in the earth his body lies to rot;—
How vain's ambition since our life's so frail!
Sure happy is the man of humble lot,
Tho' born to live, unknown and haply dies forgot.

For the Scots Magazine.

THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.

I HEARD the Blackbird whistle
And hail the early Spring,
The Linnet and the Throttle
Their merry carrols sing;
I saw the Fowler near them,
Upon spray to spray they fly;
He aims! no more we'll hear them,
They flutter and they die.

The ways of the world are various,
Then let us be merry and gay;
Since fortune is so precarious,
We should enjoy to day.

The smiling morn appears
Displaying all her charms,
The day dissolves in tears,
The evening brings alarms;
And so it is in human life,
Fate hangs upon a die,
For hours of love lead years of strife,
The smile begets the sigh.
The ways of the world &c.

The soldier seeks promotion,
And boldly dares the foe;
The sailor braves the ocean,
His valour well we know.
But time and chance on all await,
In honour's bed they lie,
Or if old age should be their fate,
'Tis spent in poverty.
The ways of the world &c.

The merchant ventures fairly,
His riches fast increase;
He hopes to leave off early,
And spend his days in peace.
But loss on loss comes thick'ning on,
And e'er he fills the page,
The airy dream of wealth has flown,
And left a bankrupt age.
The ways of the world &c.

I saw the sick recover
And feel the glow of health,
Pleas'd as a youthful lover
Who sees his love by stealth;
Care fled the house of sorrow,
The doctor pledged his fame,
He'd be quite well to-morrow,
To-morrow never came.
The ways of the world &c.

Then let us all, with grateful hearts,
Improve the hour that flies;
With candour act our varied parts
And thus be truly wise;
For since the race is not to speed,
Nor victory to the strong;
Let honour be our darling creed,
And sweet content our song.
The ways of the world &c.

MATHEW.

For the Scots Magazine.

FROM A LADY IN AMERICA,

TO HER FRIEND GOING TO ENGLAND.

WHILE you, my friend, forsake your long-lov'd home,
And cross the seas, o'er distant lands to roam;
Smooth be the surface of the rolling tide,
Safe may your vessel on the ocean glide.
May nought retard, nor flow, nor adverse gales,
But winds propitious fill the spreading sails.
Oft have I wish'd, but O! I've wish'd in vain,
To cross the waves, Britannia's isle to gain.
Oft have I wish'd to view, with fond desire,
The solemn Abbey* you so much admire.
O! could I o'er fair Albion's regions rove,
Blest with M—'s converse and her love.

* Westminster Abbey.

What various ſcenes! there ſhould ſurely find,
To charm my fancy, and improve my mind.
But ceaſe my muſe; tho' here we ſoon muſt part,
No diſtance ſhall convey her from my heart;
Let but my lovely friend her pen employ,
'Twill in my breaſt diffuſe an heartfelt joy.
To thoſe fair lines oft K—y ſhall repair,
And in M—'s abſence view her there.
Content ſhe'll wait th' expected wiſh'd-for time,
And in her clear deſcription view the clime.
While thus, my friend, from noiſe and war retreats,
To realms of plenty and far happier ſeats;
May heaven protect her from all rude alarms,
And kindly give her to her Edward's arms.

MONTHLY REGISTER

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

After having adopted meaſures for enforcing the arrangement of the *indemnities*, and having, by a vigorous tone of conduct, overawed the inſolence of the Emperor of Morocco, the French Government has again begun to interfere in the political affairs of Switzerland. The Firſt Conſul has addreſſed the Swiſs in a language that was to be expected from him. He tells them that they have been diſputing for three years without underſtanding each other; and that if they are left to themſelves any longer, they will diſpute for three years more, without coming to a better underſtanding. He reminds them that their internal wars have never been put an end to but by the efficacious intervention of France; and he declares, that he neither can nor will remain inſenſible to their miſery. He recalls the reſolution he had made not to interfere in their affairs; declares that he will be the mediator of their differences, and that his mediation ſhall be efficacious.

An army of 12,000 men is ſtationed on the borders of Switzerland to enforce the mediation of the French Government.

Notwithſtanding the interference of France in the diſtracted ſtate of Switzerland, the enemies of the new conſtitution ſeem determined to riſk every thing on an appeal to arms. Their numbers and influence increaſe every day, and ſome actions have been fought, in which they have proved ſucceſsful. The ſtrong caſtle of Arburg has been reduced by the inſurgents of Argovia, and the petty cantons have given notice of the rupture of the armiſtice.

It has been lately reported, that the Britiſh Government intends taking ſome ſhare in ſettling the differences betwixt the French and the Swiſs; if there be any truth in this report, the reſult may prove diſagreeable, and again plunge us into a war; we hope, however, that matters will be adjuſted amicably.

The French Government has publiſhed a proclamation, by which all proprietors of land in St Domingo are required to repair thither, under pain of the ſequeſtration of their property.

Piedmont is at length formally incorporated with the French Republic, and divided into ſix departments. The Deputies whom they are to ſend to the Legiſlative Body amount to ſeventeen.

The Chateau de St Cloud is ready for the reception of the Firſt Conſul, who will remove thither with his family immediately. It is ſaid he will reſide there as many months in the year, as the King of France uſed to reſide at Verſailles.

The Firſt Conſul has ordered a ſuperb ſervice of china to be completed at the manufactory of Loire for Lord Hawkeſbury. It is now finiſhed, and conſiſts of three ſets, viz:—

"1. A table ſet, with tortoiſe ſhell coloured borders, white bottom, and a green bugle-horn in the centre.

2. A table ſet, with brown tortoiſe ſhell coloured borders, bottom white, veined like marble, antique emblematical

tical figures, bronze-coloured in the centre.

3. A desert service, white borders, enriched with gold, purple coloured bottoms, cypher H. in the centre."

A magnificent present of porcelain, of the manufactory of Sevres, has been prepared for General Lord Hutchison, as a present from Bonaparte.

A society has been formed at Paris, with the title of the Galvanic Society, composed of the physicians and chymists who have been most distinguished by their researches in Galvanism. The object of the institution is to repeat all the experiments relating to Galvanism, and apply its operation in cases of diseases.

A French artist has lately exhibited some singular pieces of workmanship. A little cannon of gold, mounted on a carriage, with all the apparatus of a piece of artillery, is drawn by a flea which in this manner draws 100 times its own weight. The most remarkable contrivance, however, is a four wheeled carriage in gold, suspended by four steel springs, which is drawn by one of these insects. There are two persons within the carriage, and a driver on a coach-box in the front.

A Mr Botineau, the inventor of a method by which the approach of ships at sea may be discovered at a much greater distance than it can be discerned at by any common means, died lately in great misery at Pondicherry. It is affirmed, that if he had been on board the French fleet at Aboukir, his art would, by directing the timely escape of that fleet, have prevented the victory of Nelson. He would not discover his secret in France otherwise than for a naval appointment, which was denied him. His secret has perished with him; but a Mr Leroy, a medical professor, affirms, that he is now capable of explaining the principles of that art; and asserts, that it was unknown to the ancients. It became known to Botineau entirely by accident.

GERMANY.

The extraordinary deputation of the Empire has adopted, in its full extent, the declaration of France and Russia, respecting the indemnities. This decision took place on the 8th inst. and the conclusum was instantly communicated to the French and Russian ministers.

The Emperor of Germany is devoting much attention to the equipment of a marine, and has established the relative rank between his land and sea officers.—A Captain of a ship of the line is equal to a Colonel in the army; a Captain of a frigate to a Lieutenant Colonel; a Lieutenant of a ship of the line to a Captain; of a frigate to a first Lieutenant, and of a Midshipman to an Ensign. Their uniform is dark blue, with sky blue facings; sky blue waistcoats and breeches, half-boots, and laced hats.

TURKEY.

At the instance of the Grand Vifier, the Porte has accepted the submission of Paswan Oglou; confirming him in the Government of Widden, and raising him to the dignity of a Pacha of Three Tails. The Vifier has obtained, as might be expected, for Paswan, a complete amnesty for all past offences, and he has even been assured by his Government of payment of the arrears due to his troops. On his part, Paswan engages to remain perfectly obedient, and moreover to disband his troops immediately on their receiving the money due to them. It is not very probable however, that this celebrated rebel, who has exercised pillage during so many years, and who has been the sovereign of one of the provinces of the Turkish empire, will consent to deprive himself of his forces, when he may obtain new means of supporting them on an imposing footing. The peace which prevails at this moment throughout Europe, furnishes, it is true, to the Sublime Porte the means of attacking the rebels in its states, but Paswan Oglou has already evinced, that he knows how to maintain his power either in peace or war, being assured of the neutrality of the neighbouring powers.

INDIA.

Authentic intelligence has been received by an overland dispatch from Madras, of the sudden death of the deposed heir of the Nabob of the Carnatic. He expired on the 6th of April. His death was followed by those of his Highness's father-in-law, and of his dearest friend and chief counsellor, the venerable Najub Khan, who survived his sovereign but nineteen days. The Prince on his death-bed made a will in favour

favour of his brother Huſſein Ul Malk, who of courſe ſucceeds to all his legitimate claims to the ſovereignty.

Haſſaun is not deſtitute of vigour and talents, and has, it is ſtated, poſitively refuſed to ſign the ſurrender of his rights. He is kept in cloſe confinement.

Miſcellaneous Intelligence.

Botany Bay.—About ten leagues to the ſouthward of Port Stephens, on the banks of Hunter's River, a coal-pit has been diſcovered, which promiſes to prove highly beneficial to the colony.

Dr Lettſom has received accounts from his correſpondent in America, of the happy progreſs which the Cow-pox has made in that country, particularly among the Indians, to whom the ſmall-pox uſed to be as terrible a ſcourge as ever the plague was in Turkey, or the yellow fever in St Domingo.

Dr Olbers has diſcovered a ſmall comet. It cannot be ſeen but with good teleſcopes. At one minute paſt eleven its right aſcenſion was 251 deg. 28 min. declination north 4 deg. 32 min. On the 4th of September, 9 h. 7 min. its right aſcenſion was 251 deg. 28. declination north 7 deg. 57 min. It was diſcovered on the 2d inſt. at nine in the evening.

A monument is about to be erected at Zurich to the memory of Lavater: L. 250 ſterling has been ſubſcribed to defray the expence.

Library of Herculaneum.—About fifteen hundred Papyrus volumes, reſcued from the buried aſhes of Herculaneum, are now in the muſeum, founded by the King of Naples at Portici; but, even before the late invaſion of his kingdom, only two perſons were employed by his Majeſty in unfolding them, and ſince that period, the labour, we underſtand, has been entirely interrupted. Beſides the work of Philodemus, on muſic, which has been printed, another by the ſame writer on the vices and their oppoſite virtues, has been unfolded, and M. Baſſi, the librarian of the King of Naples, was employed in tranſlating it from the Greek, when he fell a victim to the laſt inſurrection of the Neapolitan populace. A diſcourſe by Philodemus, "concerning Poems," has alſo been unfolded. But in the inſtance of this library, as elſewhere, it is reſerved for the Engliſh nation to complete the uſe of the opportunities afforded by others. The treatiſe of Epicurus on the Nature of things, of which the title alone has hitherto been known to the moderns, but which the ancients held to have ſupplied Lucretius with the baſis of his poem, having been diſcovered amongſt this literary treaſure, Mr Haiter, the librarian of the Prince of Wales, is now employed at Palermo, in unfolding and tranſlating it, and we have great pleaſure in mentioning, that his Royal Highneſs is at the expence of this uſeful undertaking, which occupies ten perſons, under the direction of Mr Haiter.

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.

From the London Gazette.

BY THE KING, A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE R.

Whereas our Parliament which we ſummoned to meet at Weſtminſter upon Tueſday the thirty-firſt day of Auguſt laſt, ſtands prorogued to Tueſday the fifth day of October next; we, with the advice of our Privy Council, do, for diverſe weighty reaſons, hereby publiſh and declare, that the ſaid Parliament ſhall be further prorogued on the ſaid fifth day of October next to Tueſday the ſixteenth day of November next: And we have given order to our Chancellor of that part of our united kingdom called Great Britain to prepare a writ patent, under our great ſeal, for proroguing the ſame accordingly. And we do further hereby, with the advice aforeſaid, declare our royal will and pleaſure, that the ſaid Parliament ſhall, on the ſaid ſixteenth day of November next, be held and ſit for the diſpatch of diverſe urgent and important affairs. And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, and and the Commiſſioners for Shires and Burghs of the Houſe of Commons, are hereby required and commanded to give their attendance accordingly at Weſtminſter on the ſaid ſixteenth day of November next.

Given at our Court at Windſor the eighteenth day of September one thouſand eight hundred and two, in the forty-ſecond year of our reign.

Downing Street, Sept 15.

His Royal Highneſs the Duke of Suſſex has been pleaſed to appoint Lieut. Colonel Sir John Douglas, of the Royal Marines, to be Equery to his Royal Highneſs.

At the Court at St James's Sept. 22. 1802.

PRESENT,

The King's moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council.

This day the Right Hon. Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. and the Right Hon. John Smith, were, by his Majeſty's command, ſworn of his Majeſty's Moſt Honourable Privy Council, and took their places at the Board accordingly.

Downing Street, Sept. 27.

The King has been pleaſed to appoint Colonel Prevoſt to be Captain General and Governor in Chief, in and over his Majeſty's Iſland of Dominica.

Whitehall, Oct. 2.

The King has been pleaſed to preſent the Rev. John Mackenzie, Clerk, to the Church and Pariſh of Edderachillis, in the preſbytery of Tongue, and and county of Sutherland, void by the death of Mr Alexander Falconer, late Miniſter there.

The King has been pleaſed to appoint John Martin Leake and John Erſkine, Eſqrs. to be Comptrollers of Army Accounts.

Whitehall, Oct. 5.

The King has been pleaſed to preſent the Rev. William Haldane to the church and pariſh of Kingoldrum, in the preſbytery of Meigle and county of Forfar, void by the death of Mr James Badenock, late Miniſter there.

The King has alſo been pleaſed to appoint Mr William Ireland to be Clerk of the Commiſſariot of Kirkcudbright, void by the death of Mr John Buſhby.

St James's, October 7.

Count St Martin de Front, having received new letters of credence from his Majeſty Victoire Emmanuel King of Sardinia, giving him the ſame character of Envoy Extraordinary and Miniſter Plenipotentiary from Sardinia, had this day a private audience of her Majeſty: To which he was introduced by Edward Debrow, Eſq. her Majeſty's Vice Chamberlain, and conducted by Sir Stephen Cottrel, Knt. Maſter of the Ceremonies.

LONDON.

The King is ſaid to owe his preſent excellent ſtate of health to a material change in his mode of living: For, inſtead of a vegetable diet, and water, he now dines upon fiſh and animal food, with which he takes four glaſſes of port wine.—To this fortunate change of diet, his Majeſty's Phyſicians aſcribe the happy improvement of his ſtrength and ſpirits.

Sept. 29. This being the birth-day of her Royal Highneſs the Ducheſs of Wirtemberg, who completes the 36th year of her age, the Royal Family received the compliments of the nobility at Windſor.

A new Square has been marked out at the top of Cumberland-place; an eligible ſituation communicating in a direct line with Cumberland Gate, Hyde Park, and with Portman and Mancheſter-ſquares. It is to be called *Cumberland ſquare.*

Application is alſo to be made for an act for taking down London Bridge, and for rebuilding the ſame on the preſent ſite, or for building a new bridge in ſome more convenient ſituation.

All deſcriptions of retailers, are at preſent ſuffering great inconvenience from the ſcarcity of copper coinage. The ſame ſcarcity is undoubtedly felt in other parts of the kingdom; it therefore becomes a matter of ſuch importance as to render an application to Government for an additional coinage neceſſary and proper. It is ſaid that the copper coinage is exported or melted down. If this be the fact, it ſhould be made of an inferior value.

Mr Fox, we are credibly informed, has ſucceeded to his utmoſt expectations, in his reſearches among the manuſcript papers at Paris, relative to the Family of the Stuarts, ſo that the hiſtorical work, on which he has been for ſome time employed, will, it is ſuppoſed, be prepared for the preſs with as much expedition as poſſible.

Deadful fire at Liverpool.

On the 14th of laſt month, in the evening, a tremendous fire broke out and

and conſumed the whole of the extenſive Warehouſes fronting St George's Dock, the pride of Liverpool, and the admiration of ſtrangers.—It is not known how this dreadful calamity originated; but about ten o'clock ſmoke was obſerved to iſſue from the centre of Francis's Buildings; the fire bell was inſtantly rung, the drum beat to arms, the military turned out, and every exertion that active attention could furniſh was rendered. The remains of the Northumberland Fencibles were particularly active, commanded by their Adjutant.

About one the flames burſt forth with tremendous fury, and continued raging and threatening deſtruction to to all around till ſix o'clock in the morning, when they were got ſomewhat under. The fury with which the conflagration raged its effects will beſt demonſtrate, for all thoſe beautiful and extenſive buildings reaching from Water-lane to Brunſwick-ſtreet, with the correſponding ſtore-houſes called Francis, were, at ſix o'clock in the morning, one prodigious heap of ruins!

Various rumours are circulated as to the cauſe of this ſerious accident; ſome aſſerting that it was wilful, others accidental: Be that as it may, a conflagration more awful and deſtructive in its conſequences, was never known in Liverpool, or threw a greater damp upon the ſpirits of commercial men. Happily no lives were loſt, though ſeveral perſons were ſeverely hurt by the falling of bricks, pieces of timber, &c. but none mortally. A Committee is now ſitting at the Exchange, for the purpoſe of inveſtigating the cauſe.

The inſurance on the property deſtroyed by the fire amounts only to 95,000l. of which 42,000l. was in the Sun, Phœnix, and Exchange London Offices, 16,000l. inſured at Liverpool, and the remainder in other offices. Great part of the damage was in foreign conſignments, and one houſe at Dantzick will, it is ſaid, loſe 60,000l.—The loſs is ſuppoſed to amount to 205,000l.

It is well obſerved, that while great efforts are made to *extinguiſh fires*, none are uſed to *prevent their being kindled*. In nineteen caſes out of twenty, they are occaſioned by the moſt reprehenſible negligence, ſuch as dropping the ſnuff of a candle on ſtraw, or other combuſtible materials, &c. There is a law in Germany, the adoption of which is devoutly to be wiſhed in this country: Any perſon ſeen in a warehouſe, cellar, ſtable, workſhop, or manufactory, with a candle *not in a lantern*, is liable to a fine or impriſonment.

5. The new Life boat, conſtructed and built on the moſt approved principle, by Mr Richard Bathel, was launched at Liverpool on Tueſday laſt, when it anſwered the moſt ſanguine expectations: it is ſo perfectly buoyant, that it appears impoſſible to ſink it, though filled with people, and water-logged; and from the experiments made, it may, with the utmoſt ſafety, be uſed in the moſt ſtormy weather. This boat will always be ready to put off to the relief and aſſiſtance of any veſſel in diſtreſs.

A loom has been invented by a gentleman in Devonſhire, for weaving fiſhing nets, which, it is ſaid, has fully accompliſhed the wiſhes of the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce; and, in another point of view, this invention promiſes to be highly intereſting to the commercial part of the community, as a machine ſimilar to that for weaving nets, in every reſpect, except dimenſions, will make beautiful fine lace, and thereby diminiſh thoſe ſums, which annually leave the country for the importation of foreign lace.

The facilitating and diminiſhing the quantity of labour by machinery, is the principal cauſe why Great Britain has obtained ſuch a ſuperiority and cheapneſs in the manufactures ſhe produces, and leads to foreign markets. As whatever tends to preſerve our ſuperiority unimpaired is of conſequence to ſociety, we record with pleaſure, every diſcovery which leads to that effect:—Six new callicoe printing preſſes, on an improved plan, have lately been erected at Woodbank printfield, near Carliſle, by which, independent of the ſuperior neatneſs with which the work is executed, there is an immenſe ſaving in expence.—They are carried on by water, and only require the attendance of one man each, and the ſix preſſes turn off as much work, as twenty-ſeven men can do in the ordinary way, and each of theſe men earning from one guinea to two guineas per week.

It may be neceſſary to appriſe our maritime readers trading to London, that

that a rock has been discovered in the river Thames, a little below Blackwall, which renders the navigation, at a particular time of the tide, extremely dangerous. The Trinity Company have offered a premium, to any one who shall hit upon an expedient to remove it, and will undertake to carry it into effect.

A person in the town of Sheffield, by trade a tailor, has predicted, that the consummation of time, and the grand conflagration of the universe, must take place before the end of the year 1805. He urges his doctrines with all the zeal and pertinacity peculiar to enthusiasm, retorts contradiction by a contemptuous sneer, and smiles at expostulation. As a proof of the sincerity of his belief, he has withdrawn his contribution from a house club, concluding, that all preparations for terrestrial accommodation are highly prepositerous.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh.

Sept. 14. The Sheriff gave judgment upon an action, brought by his Majesty's printers, against a printer in Edinburgh, who had, without a licence from them, printed an edition of one of the Catechisms; and, after examining the patent rights to the exclusive printing of Catechisms, &c. his Lordship found, that the defender had acted illegally, and decided against him accordingly. This decision ascertains, that the books included in the patent of the King's Printers, cannot be legally printed or published, except by themselves, or under their authority; although, after being so printed and published, the same become articles of general commerce.

28. *John Mitchell*, tinsmith, one of the persons concerned in the unfortunate affair, in which Mr Hutchison lost his life, was brought to Edinburgh, from Newcastle, in custody of one of the police officers of this city; after examination before the sitting Magistrate, he was committed to prison.

29. Wednesday the Presbytery met here, when Thomas Henderson, Esq; Dean of Guild, and Thomas Hay, Esq; City Chamberlain, laid before them a presentation from the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council, in favour of the Rev. Dr John Thomson, minister of the New Greyfriars, to be minister of the New North Church, in room of Dr Gloag, deceased, also Dr Thomson's letter of acceptance, both which were read and unanimously sustained. —The Presbytery appointed a call, to be moderated on Thursday the 14th of October, in the New North Church, which was done accordingly.

MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH.

Oct. 5. This day the Council was filled up, when the government of the city was vested in the following gentlemen:

Lord Provost—The Right Hon. NIEL MACVICAR.

Bailies—PETER HILL, Esq; ARCHIBALD MENZIES, Esq; JOHN MUIR, Esq; JOHN WALKER, Esq;

Dean of Guild—THOMAS HENDERSON, Esq;

Treasurer—JAMES CARFRAE, Esq;

Old Provost—WILLIAM FETTES, Esq.

Old Bailies—Archibald Gilchrist, Archibald Campbell, Richard Bannatyne, William Tennant, Esquires.

Old Dean of Guild—James Jackson, Esq.

Old Treasurer and College Treasurer—Archibald Mackinlay, Esq.

Merchant Councillors—Messrs William Calder, George White, John Turnbull.

Trades Councillors—James Law, John Patterson.

Council Deacons—William Ranken, *Convener*; Robert Norrie, John Thin, John Yule, Peter Pridie, Adam Brooks.

Extraordinary Council Deacons—John Bennet, John Simson, Archibald Stewart, Robert Cox, Thomas Smith, Peter Mellis, William Rois, William Rachurn.

Mr William Calder, Captain of Orange Colours.

Archibald Campbell, Esq. Admiral of Leith.

Richard Bannatyne, Esq. Baron Bailie of Canongate and Calton.

William Tennant, Esq. Baron Bailie of Easter and Wester Portsburgh.

Mr James Scarth, and Mr John Watson, sen. were appointed Resident Bailies of Leith.

Messrs James Goldie and Andrew Wilson,

Wilſon, were appointed reſident Bailies of Potter-row and Portſburgh.

Meſſrs George Rae and William Urquhart, Reſident Bailies of Canongate; and Mr Joſeph Brown, Treaſurer.

The following Gentlemen have been elected Chief Magiſtrates of the Principal Boroughs.

Aberdeen, James Hadden, Eſq.
Arbroath, James Johnſton Eſq.
Ayr, George Charles, Eſq.
Burntiſland, Alexander Pitcairn, Eſq.
Dumbarton, John Denny, Eſq.
Dumfries, Gabriel Richardſon, Eſq.
Dundee, John Guild, Eſq.
Forfar, John Watt, Eſq.
Glaſgow, Laurence Craigie, Eſq. Lord Provoſt.
Haddington, William Cunninghame, Eſq.
Inverkeithing, Sir John Henderſon, Bart.
Irvine, Lord Montgomery.
Kirkcaldy, James Fergus, Eſq.
Lanark, Richard Vary, Eſq.
Linlithgow, Alex. Learmonth, Eſq.
Montroſe, James Lyal, Eſq.
Perth, John Caw, Eſq.
Renfrew, James Burns, Eſq.
Rutherglen, Colonel John Spens.
Stirling, James Glass, ſen. Eſq.
St Andrews, Right Hon. the Earl of Kelly.

Glaſgow.

1. Friday, the Rev. Dr Ritchie, from Kilwinning, was admitted miniſter of St Andrew's Church, Glaſgow, and cordially received by all ranks of people. The Rev. Dr Taylor, of the High Church, Glaſgow, preached and preſided on the occaſion.

The Treaſurer of the infirmary, has received the following ſums for the ſupport of that humane inſtitution, viz. Fifty pounds from the Kirk Seſſion of Irvine, and fifty pounds from the magiſtrates of that place, including twenty five pounds, a ſum formerly voted by the Irvine Volunteers, from the funds of that corps.

The collections at the Tabernable, on Sabbath laſt, and Monday evening, for publiſhing the Old Teſtament in the Bengalee language, amounted to 251l. 4s. 6¼d.

Aberdeen.

Accounts from this place mention a dreadful accident, which happened there lately: While the workmen were buſily employed in completing the principal arch of the large bridge, now building to facilitate the entrance to the town, from the ſouth, the *coombs*, by which the arch is ſupported, gave way, and in an inſtant a great part of it fell in with a tremendous crath.

The groans of the ſufferers, buried under the ruins, the number of whom could not be poſſibly aſcertained, was truly dreadful. People were immediately ſet to work to remove the ſtones and wood, and ſeven perſons were brought out, with their limbs terribly torn and mangled. Moſt of them were carried to the Infirmary; two of them have had each a leg cut off, and there are but faint hopes of their recovery. The ſufferers are yet, as far as I have heard, all alive.

Two gentlemen were on the top of the arch when it fell; they of courſe came down with it. One of them, providentially, eſcaped with little injury; the other had an arm broke, and was otherwiſe a good deal bruiſed. It is remarkable, that of all the wood in this extenſive arch, not a ſtick ſtood. Moſt of the arch has now been got down.

The Treaſurer of the Lunatic Hoſpital has received a donation of 50l. Sterling, from the Honourable, the County Club, for the benefit of that charitable inſtitution.

Dundee.

The diſpoſition to nocturnal riot and outrage which has been of late ſo prevalent in other places, has at laſt reached the town of Dundee. In the courſe of laſt month ſeveral people have been knocked down, and otherwiſe maltreated; particularly one Grieve, a carter, was beat ſo ſeverely as to endanger his life. No intention of robbery has in any inſtance appeared. Theſe riotous proceedings are to be attributed chiefly to idle people being diſbanded from the army and navy, newly emancipated from diſcipline, and not ſettled in any ſober occupation. One man has been committed to jail for the aſſault on Grieve.

About nine months ago, during the extreme ſtate of depreſſion of the linen manufactory in the county of Angus, the labourer could not find work by which to earn a ſcanty ſubſiſtence; now we have the pleaſure to learn,

that the cotton trade has been progreſſively and rapidly increaſing, ſo that in Dundee alone, ſome thouſands of hands are employed.

Perth.

We underſtand the Right Hon. the Earl of Kinnoul, has given to the town that large field immediately weſt from, and adjoining the North Inch, in exchange for ground of equal value contiguous to his own property. The North Inch of Perth is one of the moſt extenſive, uſeful, and delightful meadows in Scotland, and when this field, which meaſures at leaſt 30 acres, is taken into it, it will hardly be equalled.

Great efforts have been lately made, and are ſtill going on, to enlarge and beautify this ancient town. Its buildings are daily increaſing; its manufactures are in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate; and taſte is ſeconding and improving the advantages of nature, to render its pleaſure grounds, and neighbouring ſcenery, the delight of the inhabitants, and objects of admiration to ſtrangers.

Inverneſs.

A canal from Inverneſs to Fort William has been for ſome time in the contemplation of government.—Mr Telford, engineer, has been theſe two laſt ſummer ſeaſons employed, by order of the Treaſury, in taking the elevations and ſoundings of the lakes, and ſeems perfectly ſatisfied of its practicability; ſo much ſo, that what he conſidered at firſt ſight as the moſt expenſive and weighty obſtacles, appear now ſuperfluous and unneceſſary. Loch Neſs and Loch Lochy are completely navigable for veſſels of any burden, in point of depth; and in the event of contrary winds, which may happen in all ſituations, there are ſecure anchorages almoſt every three miles. The benefit of ſuch a communication from ſea to ſea will be incalculable. To the mercantile world it ſaves the immenſe and dangerous round of the Weſtern Iſles, or their ſounds, as well as the Pentland Firth, on going round the Orkneys; and, in like manner, the additional dangers to which they might be ſubjected, in caſe of a rupture with the Northern Powers. As a national benefit, the employment of hands in the very cutting of it, would give a check to the ſpirit of emigration ſo prevalent at preſent; when finiſhed, the conſequent increaſe of manufactures, and influx by trade, muſt ſupply thouſands with proper and rational employment, and ſo preſerve among us the friends and deſcendants of a people ſo much the bulwark of our nation, as the Conquerors of the Invincibles, and their comrades, have been; and thereby not only ſupport, but increaſe our population, our produce, and reſources. From Mr Telford's opinion, the probable expence of this great undertaking, (ſuppoſing it to be 22 feet deep, and 50 feet broad), was only 345,000l.; but of this it is ſuppoſed 45,000l. might be ſaved, by diſpenſing with the roads along the lakes, leaving only 300,000l. a ſum which would in a ſhort time return itſelf, from the increaſing proſperity of that part of the country, and the advantages accruing to commerce in general.—The employing of the many able, but hitherto idle, young men, diſcharged ſo lately from the Fencibles and Militia, is alſo an object worth mentioning.

The Burntiſland Fiſhery Society have reſolved, that the fiſh-curers do not begin fiſhing on the Frith before the 5th of November, in order that the ſchool may be preſerved entire until that time. Saturday laſt ſeveral barrels of pickled herrings were ſold by auction at the weigh-houſe here, which were knocked down on an average at four ſhillings and ſixpence per barrel.—What muſt the quality have been?

22. Wedneſday, the gentlemen of Thomſon's Club met at Ednam, to celebrate his birth-day. The day was ſpent with the utmoſt harmony and ſocial mirth.

It muſt be a gratification to every liberal mind to learn, that one of the ſons of Burns, the *Scotiſh Theocritus*, has been admitted into Chriſt's Hoſpital.

As bowel complaints are at preſent more prevalent than has ever been remembered, a medical correſpondent recommends the following ſafe and certain cure: Grown perſons ſo afflicted, are recommended to take from 20 to 25 grains of the beſt Turkey rhubarb roaſted, and to drink copiouſly of water-gruel; roaſt and baked meats ſhould be avoided, as alſo vegetables of all ſorts, and malt liquors. Boiled meat, and toaſt and water, ſhould be taken at dinner, and a ſmall tumbler of weak brandy and water warm, with ginger,

ginger, previous to the patient retiring to reſt. The complaint, if taken in time, is by no means dangerous, but, if neglected, might be of the moſt ſerious conſequences.

Militia.

The following are the numbers to be furniſhed by the different counties:

Aberdeen		640
Ayr		436
Fife		484
Lanark		751
Perth		653
Renfrew		404
Berwick	156	
Haddington	154	459
Linlithgow	94	
Peebles	55	
Forfar	511	647
Kincardine	136	
Inverneſs	384	
Banff	179	745
Elgin	138	
Nairn	44	
Kirkcudbright	151	270
Wigton	119	
Argyle	364	425
Bute	61	
County of Edinburgh	333	643
City of ditto	310	
Dumfries	284	487
Roxburgh	178	
Selkirk	25	
Caithneſs	121	
Sutherland	100	507
Roſs	270	
Cromarty	16	
Stirling	263	
Dumbarton	107	461
Clackmannan	56	
Kinroſs	35	
Total		8012

Circuit Intelligence.

Sept. 9. The Circuit Court of Juſticiary was opened at Inverary by the Right Hon. the Lord Craig.

William Dawſon, *Lachlan Thomſon*, and *Peter M'Farlane*, were accuſed of obſtructing revenue officers. M'Farlane was outlawed for not compearing. The libel as to Thomſon was found not proven, and he was diſmiſſed. The libel as to Dawſon was found proven, with a recommendation to the lenity of the Court. He is ſentenced to be impriſoned for one month, and to find caution to keep the peace for a year, under a penalty of 600 merks Scots.

No other buſineſs came before the Court.

13. The Circuit Court of Juſticiary was opened at Aberdeen by the Right Hon. the Lord Methven.

Anne Edmund, accuſed of houſe-breaking and theft, was guilty by her own confeſſion, and ſentenced to be tranſported beyond ſeas for ſeven years.

Robert Burnet, crofter in Little Maldron, in the pariſh of Kincardine O'Niel, accuſed of forging letters in order to obtain money from a Banking Company in Aberdeen, but which he did not obtain—he petitioned the Court for baniſhment, to which the Advocate Depute having conſented, he was ſentenced to be baniſhed from Scotland for ſeven years.

Alexander Reid in Buckie, accuſed of perſonifying an Exciſe Officer, was found guilty by his own confeſſion; but, in reſpect of his ingenuous confeſſion and ſeeming contrition, the Jury humbly recommended him to the lenity of the Court, and he was ſentenced to be impriſoned in the tolbooth of Banff for one month, and ordained to keep the peace for a year, under the uſual penalty.

No other buſineſs depending, the Court proceeded to Inverneſs.

The Circuit Court of Juſticiary was opened at Air, the 11th curt. by the Right Hon. Lord Duntinnan, when *Janet Ritchie*, formerly a reſideuter in Catrine, accuſed of the crime of perjury, was outlawed for not appearing to ſtand trial. Thereafter, *Elizabeth Setter* alias *Stevenſon*, wife of James Stevenſon, formerly reſiding in Dumbarton, who has been in priſon here for ſeveral months, accuſed of theft, was brought to the bar; ſhe preſented a petition, ſubmitting to baniſhment from Scotland for life, which was conſented to by his Majeſty's Advocate Depute, and ſhe was baniſhed accordingly.

The Court then proceeded to the trial of *James Myres*, alſo a priſoner here, accuſed of houſe-breaking and theft. The Advocate Depute having ſeen cauſe to reſtrict the indictment to an arbitrary puniſhment, the pannel was found guilty upon his own confeſſion, and was ſentenced to tranſportation for life. The Court decided in two appeals from Civil Courts, which concluded the buſineſs of the Court at at this place.

Glaſgow, Sept. 14. The Circuit Court was opened here by the Right

Hon. Lords Craig and Armadale, when the following buſineſs came before them:

John Taſſie, weaver in Govan, accuſed of murder, having failed to appear, was outlawed.

Allan Henderſon, for theft from two bleachfields and a dwelling-houſe, aggravated by being habit and repute a thief. He pled not guilty, and the libel was paſſed from, in ſo far as it charged theft from the dwelling-houſe. Before leaving the Court, on the application of the Advocate-Depute, warrant was granted againſt Henderſon for ſeveral acts of houſe-breaking, on which he was committed to priſon.

Andrew Steel, carter in Glaſgow, accuſed of the murder of John Cameron, carter there, on the Ayr road, in April laſt. The Jury unanimouſly found the pannel not guilty, upon which he was diſmiſſed from the bar.

Robert Williamſon, farmer at Whitehill, accuſed of vitiating bills. The diet was deſerted *pro loco et tempore*.

John Smith, fleſher, late in Glaſgow, for theft. He pleaded guilty; and, on the unanimous verdict of a Jury finding him guilty, was ſentenced to ſeven years tranſportation.

George Scott, labourer at Balgray, accuſed of two acts of theft, and being habit and repute a thief. The libel was reſtricted to an arbitrary puniſhment. He was found guilty of one of the acts of theft, but not guilty of the other charges; and was ſentenced to be tranſported for ſeven years.

John Marſhall, late ferryman at Bonhill, accuſed of houſe-breaking and theft. On account of the abſence of a neceſſary witneſs, the diet was deſerted *pro loco et tempore*. The Lords, on the application of the pannel, and obſerving that the crimes are charged as having been committed twelve years ago, admitted him to bail.

Andrew Carruth, meſſenger, accuſed of forging and fabricating law executions, pled guilty; and the Court, conſidering that he had already ſuffered five months confinement, ſentenced him to one month's impriſonment.

John Burnet, accuſed of houſe-breaking and theft. The Jury unanimouſly found him guilty, and he was ſentenced to be tranſported beyond ſeas for ſeven years.

Agnes Wardrop was found guilty of houſe-breaking and theft, on her own confeſſion, and ſentenced to tranſportation for ſeven years.

Agnes M'Grigor, accuſed of theft, was likewiſe found guilty, on her own confeſſion, and received the like ſentence.

After the criminal buſineſs was finiſhed, ſeveral appeals from inferior Courts were heard and determined.

The ayre was concluded late laſt night, which ends the Autumn Weſt Circuit.

Dumfries, Sept. 16. The Circuit Court of Juſticiary was opened here by the Right Hon. the Lord Cullen.

Mary Thomſon, reſidenter at Nethermill, in the pariſh of Kirkmichael, accuſed of child murder, was outlawed for not appearing to ſtand trial.

John Thomſon, ſhip-carpenter in Kircudbright, and *Daniel M'Intoſh*, day-labourer there, were accuſed of theft and reſet of theft. Daniel M'Intoſh was outlawed for not appearing; and the libel, ſo far as reſpected John Thomſon, was reſtricted to an arbitrary puniſhment.—He was found guilty, upon his own confeſſion, and ſentenced to tranſportation for five years.

There was no further buſineſs at this place.

Jedburgh, Sept. 22. The Circuit Court of Juſticiary was opened here by the Right Hon. Lord Cullen.

Peter France, Exciſe Officer, was put to the bar, accuſed of the wilful murder of James Broomfield, carter in Greenlaw, by ſhooting him with a piſtol, on the 25th day of June laſt.—The Jury, all in one voice, found the pannel *Not guilty*; upon which he was abſolzied, and diſmiſſed *ſimpliciter* from the bar.

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

Sept. 9. At Aberdeen, Mr Thomas Guthrie, ſurgeon, of Bervie, to Miſs Agnes Fowlie, daughter of the late Mr William Fowlie, merchant, Cumineſtown.

— Peter Ewart, Eſq; of Maneheſter, to Miſs Marriane Kerr, of Edinburgh.

— At Aberdeen, Mr James Littlejohn,

houſe builder, to Miſs Jane Chalmers, daughter of Mr Chalmers, printer.

— At Aden, Mr Thomas Ferguſſon, writer in Edinburgh, to Miſs Catharine Cumine, ſecond daughter of James Cumine, Eſq; of Kinninmouth.

12. At Aberdeen, John Anderſon, Eſq; late of Calcutta, to Miſs Margaret Glenny, of Aberdeen.

13. At Edinburgh, Mr George Dobie, of London, to Miſs Suſan Thomſon, daughter of Mr Andrew Thomſon, of Wemyſs.

14. At Edinburgh, Mr William Campbell, ſurgeon in Dunfermline, to Miſs Janet Gulland of that place.

15. At Kindeace, Roſs-ſhire, Colonel John Mackenzie, of the 78th regiment, to Miſs Lillias Chiſholm, daughter of the deceaſed Alexander Chiſholm of Chiſholm, Eſq.

16. At Edinburgh, Mr John Fergus Orrock, merchant in Kirkcaldy, to Miſs Iſabella Rae, daughter of the late Mr Peter Rae, merchant in Edinburgh.

17. At Edinburgh, Mr Patrick Aitken, merchant in Stranraer, to Miſs Margaret Pringle.

20. At Carliſle, Mr George Auſtin, merchant in Glaſgow, to Miſs Alice Wilſon, daughter of Alexander Wilſon, Eſq; banker in Carliſle.

— Paul Weſton, Eſq; of South Carolina, to Miſs Antonia Bentley, eldeſt daughter of Bentley Gordon Bentley, Eſq; of Chipping Norton, deceaſed.

21. At Lymington Church, the Hon. Charles Murray, brother to the Earl of Mansfield, to Miſs Law.

23. At the manſe of Riſolis, Cromartyſhire, Mr Charles Monro, writer in Stonehaven, to Miſs Mary Arthur, eldeſt daughter of the Rev. Robert Arthur, miniſter of Riſolis.

27. At Aberdeen, Dr James Williamſon, phyſician in Banff, to Miſs Chriſtian Cockburn, ſecond daughter of the late Mr David Cockburn, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

— Mr Nathaniel Gibſon, one of the town clerks of Paiſley, to Miſs Jane Patrick, daughter of the late Mr Robert Patrick, merchant there.

Oct. 1. At Lochmalony, Fifeſhire, Profeſſor H. D. Hill, of the Univerſity of St Andrew's, to Miſs Margaret Borthwick, eldeſt daughter of Archibald Borthwick, Eſq; banker in Edinburgh.

4. At Ayr, Captain Robert Hamilton, of the 79th regiment of foot, to Miſs Margaret Bowie, ſecond daughter of William Bowie, Eſq. of Cambuſnean.

BIRTHS.

Sept. 10. Mrs Roy of Nenthorn, a ſon.

21. Mrs Geo. Robertſon, Greenock, a ſon.

14. At Clifton, near Briſtol, Mrs Roſs, ſpouſe to Captain James Roſs of the Royal Navy, a daughter.

19. At Dreghorn Houſe, Mrs Trotter of Dreghorn, a ſon.

22. At Logie Elphinſtone, Aberdeenſhire, the Lady of Robert Dalrymple Horne Elphinſtone, a ſon and heir.

23. At Kirouchtree, the Lady of Lt. Col. John Shaw Maxwell, a daughter.

27. Mrs Cay, wife of R. H. Cay, Eſq; advocate, a daughter.

30. At Carradell, Mrs Campbell of Carradell, a daughter.

Oct. 3. Mrs Arbuthnot, Queen-ſtreet, a ſon.

10. At Rednock Houſe, Mrs Graham Stirling, a ſon.

13. In the houſe of Lord Hermand, George-ſtreet, the Lady of James Ferguſſon, Eſq; a daughter.

DEATHS.

In India, on the 20th of February laſt, Major Thomas Riddell, of the Hon. Eaſt India Company's ſervice, ſon of the late Patrick Riddell, Eſq; of Muſelie.

Lately, at St Lucie, Mr Angus Kennedy; at Philadelphia, Mr Hugh Kennedy; and at Norfolk, Virginia, Mr Archibald Kennedy; ſons of Mr Daniel Kennedy, Glaſgow.

On the 15th of July laſt, at Savannah la Mar, Jamaica, in the 21ſt year of his age, Mr George Braid, ſon of Mr Andrew Braid, late merchant in St Andrew's, much and juſtly regretted by all who knew him.

At Quebec, on the 14th of July, Lieut. Col. John Nairn.

At Gordon's Dale, Virginia, on the 15th of July, Mrs Scott, relict of the Rev. John Scott, and daughter of the late Profeſſor Gordon, of King's College, Aberdeen.

On the 15th of July, Mr Thomas Marſhall, manager of the Frome eſtate, Jamaica, and youngeſt ſon of the late Mr Robert Marſhall, Adam's Court, Glaſgow.

At Demarary, on the 12th Auguſt, Peter Niſbet, Eſq; ſon of Mr P. Niſbet, of Glaſgow; a young man of diſtinguiſhed talents, ſincerely regretted by his friends, and whoſe loſs is deeply deplored in the colony.

Sept. 4. At Dumfries, Mr John Maxwell, ſurgeon.

9. At Perth, Mrs Agnes Auſtin, relict of the deceaſed William Fechney, Eſq; of Ardargie.

— At Hackney, Robert Stirling, Eſq; formerly of Jamaica.

10. At Caſtle Huntley, the Hon. Mrs Paterſon, wife of George Paterſon, Eſq; of Caſtle Huntley.

11. At his houſe Gilmour Park, Mr Ar-

chibald Scott, late of Potter-row, Edinburgh, aged 85 years.

12. At Alford, near Cheſter, Mrs Mary Robertſon, late milliner in Prince's ſtreet.

13. At Dumbarton David Connel, Eſq; town clerk there, juſtly lamented by every one who had the pleaſure of knowing him.

— At Ratho manſe, the Rev. Mr James Robertſon, in the 74th year of his age, and 43d of his miniſtry.

14. At Preſton Mill, Thomas Marſhall, Eſq; late merchant in Paiſley.

15. At the manſe of Olrick, Mrs Jean Oſwald Brodie, ſpouſe of the Rev. Mr George Mackenzie, miniſter of Olrick.

16. At Burntiſland, Miſs Agnes Thomſon, daughter of the late William Thomſon, Eſq; of Prior Letham.

— At Logie, Mr Robert Bogie, miniſter of that pariſh, in the 63d year of his age, and 35th of his miniſtry.

— At Upperhaugh, Mrs Johnſton, relict of the Rev. Alexander Johnſton, late miniſter of Alford.

17. At her houſe Antigua-ſtreet, Mrs Mary Johnſtone.

— At Blairgowrie, Mr Alexander Watſon, ſurgeon, late of his Majeſty's Royal Navy.

18. At Dundee, after an illneſs of eight days, the Rev. John Sanderſon, Methodiſt miniſter, aged 40 years.

— At Greenock, in the 75th year of her age, Mrs Elizabeth Stewart, relict of Mr Alexander Morſon, late merchant, Glaſgow.

— Thomas Maitland, Eſq; of Maitland, aged 83.

21. Mr Alexander Angus, bookſeller, Aberdeen, in the 82d year of his age.

24. At Inverneſs, Simon Fraſer of Bolainy, Eſq,

27. At Largie, Jane Macdonald Lockhart, daughter of Alexander Macdonald Lockhart, of Lee, Eſq.

28. At Haddington, Mr Hay Donaldſon, town clerk of Haddington.

29. At Glaſgow, Captain James Fairfull, late of the 49th regiment of foot.

— At the Yair, near Selkirk, Mr Robert Horſeburgh, farrier there, much and juſtly regretted.

30. At Fort William, Mrs Cochran, wife of Captain Thomas Cochran of the Invalids, and daughter to the deceaſed Hon. James Hay, of Newington.

— At Paiſley, Mr Ebenezer Macome, teacher, aged 63 years.

Oct. 1. At Edinburgh, Mrs Jean Anderſon, ſpouſe of the late Mr David Anderſon.

2. At Perth, Mrs Anderſon Grace Jaffrey, wife of Mr William Blair, manufacturer there.

4. At Ladrifhbeg, in Dumbartonſhire, the Rev. Gordon Stewart, miniſter of Bonhill, in the 68th year of his age.

5. At Dumfries, Mrs Learmont, wife of Mr George Learmont, gardener.

— At Dormont, William Carruthers, Eſq; of Dormont.

— At Hampſtead, Mr John Horner, jun.

— At her houſe in Tiviot-Row, Mrs Jean Scott, ſiſter of the late Walter Scott of Harden, Eſq.

7. At Leſlie, Mr George Gray, merchant there, much and juſtly regretted.

— At Gleſpin, in the 24th year of his age, Archibald M'Ewan, A. M.

11. At Glaſgow, after two or three days illneſs, George Gibbs, a pauper, in his 103d year. He was born 1ſt May 1600, at Nether Libberton, near Edinburgh, being the ſon of William Gibbs, gardener to Sir John Baird, near Dalkeith. He ſerved his Majeſty many years as a private in dragoons; afterwards, for 22 years, as a ſergeant in the 48th regiment of foot; and, ſubſequently, in other corps of infantry during the late American war. He was, in 1783, a private in the 83d foot, or Royal Glaſgow regiment, when it mutinied at Portſmouth, after being ſhipped for the Eaſt Indies, and of courſe he loſt his right to Chelſea Hoſpital, from which he had long enjoyed a penſion. Often has he recounted to his neighbours 21 or 22 principal actions in which he bore an active part againſt the enemy, at home and abroad; including all the engagements with the rebels in Scotland, anno 1745. He was at the right hand of the late Colonel Gardiner, when he fell in the battle near Preſtonpans, and was himſelf wounded in the battle at Falkirk. His vigour, ſtature, and mental faculties were conſiderable, and ſcarcely ſuffered diminution by years; and, at death, he meaſured 6 feet, 2 inches high, his body being as erect as in early years. In his 83d year, he married his ſecond wife, then 22 years of age; by her he had ſeven children, of whom only one daughter (his own image in features) ſurvives, now in her 14th year.

Haddington, Oct. 24.

Wheat, 36s. Barley, 23s. Oats, 19s. 6d. Peaſe, 18s. Beans, 19s.

Edinburgh, Oct. 28.

Oat-meal, 1s. 2½d. Barley-meal, 11d. Peaſe-meal, 10d.

STOCKS.—*Oct. 20.*

Bank Stock ——	New 5 per C. 100, 99⅞
3 per C. Red. 66 15/16 ⅜	Long Ann. 19 1/16 9-16
3 per C. Conſ. 67 ⅛ ⅜ ¼ 1/16	India Stock ——
4 per Cent. 84, 83-⅜ ⅛ ½	Omnium 10 1/16 dif.
5 per C. Ann. 100, 99⅝	